Hafa Adai!

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CHC reduction-in-force still on; targets half of staff. PAGE 5
Legality of traffic stop by Mafnas questioned. PAGE 3

Another power rate cut seen

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

Based on the initial information gathered by the Commonwealth Utilities Corp., power consumers on Saipan may experience another rate reduction this month.

CUC chief financial officer Charles Warren disclosed to *Saipan Tribune* on Sunday that based on preliminary data, "we should expect another decrease."

CUC cut its levelized energy adjustment clause rate by 10 percent on June 5 after prices of fuel in the world market dropped in April.

Warren could not immediately say how much

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HALF-STAFF

U.S. and CNMI flags are flown at half-staff in front of the Office of the Governor on Capital Hill yesterday afternoon, after Gov. Benigno R. Fitial issued a memo to all government department and activity heads ordering that all flags be flown at half mast in honor of the untimely passing on Saturday of former CNMI Supreme Court chief justice Miguel S. Demapan.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

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UN REPORT: CNMI 2nd highest pot user

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

The United Nations' World Drug Report 2012 ranks the CNMI second on its list of countries with the highest annual rate of marijuana use, with 22.2 percent of the islands' population having smoked "pot."

Palau ranked first with 24.2 percent, while Guam ranked third with 18.4 percent.

These three island territories or countries outranked Italy, New Zealand, Nigeria, the U.S. mainland, Canada, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Bermuda, Spain and Australia, among others.

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Medicaid owes providers over $15M

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

The CNMI Medicaid Office owes private medical providers both on- and off-island more than $15 million in outstanding reimbursement obligations, according to program officials yesterday.

Medicaid administrator Helen Sablan and the governor's special adviser for Medicaid program Esther Muña acknowledged the program's huge debt to vendors but could not say when the government will pay these arrears.

Medicaid is a health subsidy program for indigent individuals and families. The federal and state governments share Medicaid costs.

In a visit to their offices yesterday, Muña and Sablan pointed out that the CNMI Medicaid has limited funds. Its

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RELATED NEWS

➤ Admin works on Medicaid payment plan with clinics. PAGE 5

$12M in added revenue for FY 2013

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

» Priorities will be 80-hour restoration, Medicaid, medical referral, Fund

Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos said yesterday that preliminary figures indicate $12 million in additional projected revenue for fiscal year 2013 despite the termination of Saipan Air's operations which could have brought in $5 million to $7 million more in direct and indirect tax revenues for the government.

Lawmakers welcomed the news, with most of them hoping for the restoration of 80 work hours biweekly and pumping more money to the NMI Retirement Fund and Medicaid, among other priorities.

"That is awesome news. But initially it should go back to workers to restore 80 hours. It will start

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OPINION METER
This week's poll:
Do you intend to watch this year's Liberation Day parade?
Let your voice be heard! Go to www.saipantribune.com to cast your vote.

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NATION

Power outages are forcing people to get creative to stay cool.
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ASIA

Guinness World Records declares a Philippine crocodile as the largest in captivity.
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LIFE & STYLE

Is there anything TV animation king Seth MacFarlane can't do?
➤ PAGE 19

Local

NMC to explore CACG funds to continue Upward Bound

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

The Northern Marianas College will not offer its Trio programs this upcoming semester after failing to secure a grant from the U.S. Department of Education, according to Leo Pangilinan, dean of Student Services.

In a statement, Pangelinan pointed out that the Trio programs will not continue at the college without a grant award.

The federal Trio Programs are educational opportunity outreach programs designed to motivate and support students from disadvantaged backgrounds. At NMC, three programs make up the Trio programs: Upward Bound, Educational Talent Search, and Student Support Services.

NMC lost its Educational Talent Search program last year when its application was turned down while the college's Student Support Services program was stopped in 2010 for the same reason.

According to Pangelinan, the college is now seeking support from other federal funding sources to continue offering at least the Upward Bound program.

"The Trio Upward Bound participants, 120 high school students on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota, will be asked to continue seeking support from the college's College Access Challenge Grant Program," said Pangelinan.

The College Access Challenge Grant Program is a federally funded, college-preparatory program whose mission includes preparing low-income, Pacific Islander students for college. Its sponsored events and activities promote college admission and success among thousands of students and families in the CNMI each year.

"The college will make every effort to apply for and secure Trio and other federally funded grants to support current student needs and the needs of the community as these grants become available for competition. The college is currently reviewing the recent announcement of the Upward Bound Math and Science Program grant opportunity available through the U.S. Department of Education," said Pangelinan.

New applicants for the Upward Bound Math and Science Program may be eligible for up to $250,000 per year to serve 60 students with one or more services.

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Tourism Tuesday
A weekly update from the Marianas Visitors Authority
Tourism is everybody's business.
Rota Cliff Fishing Derby
July 27-29, 2012
Cliff fishing competition returns to Rota next month with the 2012 Rota Cliff Fishing Derby set for July 27-29, 2012. Co-sponsored by the Marianas Visitors Authority (MVA) and the municipality of Rota, the event aims to attract visitors to the tropical island for competition at three well-known fishing sites: As Matmos, Malilok, and Pona Point.
Registration is $30. Fishermen ages 16 and younger are free. The last day to register is Thursday, July 26, at 4:00 p.m.
Derby check-in will be at 4 p.m. on July 27 at Guata Beach Park, followed by orientation and the start of the derby at 5:30 p.m. The derby will end at 12 noon on the final day.
Cash prizes will be awarded for the top four finishers in the categories of Biggest Fish and Total Weight ($600 first place, $300 second place, $200 third place, and $100 fourth place). The top four finishers in the Most Variety category will be receiving in-kind donations from Ambros Inc.
In addition to the MVA, the event is sponsored by the Rota Mayor's Office, Rota Municipal Council, Rota Legislative Delegation, and Ambros Inc.
Weigh-ins will be at each fishing site in the morning and evening of July 28 and on the morning of July 29. Reserving spots before the derby begins will not be allowed.
MARIANAS VISITORS AUTHORITY
For complete rules or to register, contact Sandra Atalig of the MVA at 1.670.532.0327 or satalig@mymarianas.com or Martin Duenas at 1.670.664.3200 or mduenas@mymarianas.com.
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Flags flown at half-staff in honor of late chief justice Demapan

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial ordered yesterday that all U.S. and CNMI flags be flown at half-staff in honor of the untimely passing on Saturday of former CNMI Supreme Court chief justice Miguel S. Demapan.

"This order shall remain in effect until after the late chief justice Demapan has been laid to rest," Fitial said in a one-page memo to all government department and activity heads.

Fitial also asked that the people of Commonwealth "continue to keep his family in their prayers during their time of grief."

The CNMI Judiciary will honor Demapan with a memorial service to be held in the CNMI Supreme Court courtroom in Susupe on Friday, July 6, at 10am. Funeral services are planned for Monday, July 9, at Mount Carmel Cathedral.

Messages of condolences to Demapan's family and appreciation to the former chief justice's legacy continue to pour in.

Guam Chief Justice F. Philip Carbullido offered his condolences yesterday, saying, "He served the judiciaries of the CNMI, Guam, and Micronesia with integrity and fairness. His colleagues throughout the Marianas and Micronesia had the deepest respect and admiration for his untiring commitment to the rule of law."

Members of the Guam Judiciary will attend the funeral on July 9.

Over the last two decades, Demapan served as a judge and justice pro-tem for the Superior and Supreme courts of Guam.

Demapan

Delegate Gregorio Kilili Sablan (Ind-MP), in a statement, said Demapan served the CNMI "with honor throughout a distinguished career as an attorney and jurist. His loss at such an early age is a loss to us all."

Acting chief justice Alexandro C. Castro said: "Chief justice Demapan was a compassionate and dedicated public servant who cared very deeply for the community and was committed to the cause of justice in the Commonwealth and throughout our Pacific region. He was not only a colleague but was my *kompaire*. I am extremely proud to have served with Chief Justice Demapan."

Associate Justice John A. Manglona said: "Former chief justice Demapan was a leader who advocated for the independence of the Judiciary and who oversaw many positive changes during his tenure as chief justice. I knew him as a soft-spoken man with a quick smile who earned the respect of everyone who worked with him. My heart goes out to his loving wife Frances and their children."

Presiding Judge Robert C. Naraja said: "It was an honor for me to work with former chief justice Demapan. I considered him to be a colleague and a friend, and he was an integral part of the Judiciary. We all wish his family the very best during this difficult time."

Fitial and Lt. Gov Eloy S. Inos, in a statement, said Demapan was a "true guardian of the law and a highly regarded jurist who always upheld honor and humility each time he wore the judicial robe."

Demapan passed away at the Commonwealth Health Center on Saturday afternoon. He was 59. He had undergone surgeries in his battle against colon cancer. Citing health reasons, Demapan resigned from the Supreme Court on Sept. 30, 2011 where he served as chief justice since 1999 or for 12 years.

Demapan was born and raised on Saipan in a family of nine children and graduated from Marianas High School in 1971. He earned his bachelor's degree from Seattle University in Washington in 1975 and his Juris Doctor from Santa Clara University in California in 1985. In 2005 he also received a Doctor of Humane Letters from the University of Guam.

He is survived by his wife Frances, his five children Michael, Patrick, Frannie, Soleana, and Micaela, his daughter-in-law Nina, his granddaughter Isabella Soledad, and many other family members and friends.

Legality of Mafnas' traffic stop questioned

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Chief public defender Adam Hardwicke has questioned the constitutionality of a traffic stop made last year by a "white-haired male person" whom a prosecutor identified as then Department of Public Safety commissioner Ramon C. Mafnas.

Hardwicke, as counsel for Waitree Sawikan in a traffic case, asked the Superior Court to exclude all evidence gathered as a result of "this unlawful traffic stop."

Hardwicke said the traffic stop was made in violation of Sawikan's federal and Commonwealth constitutional right to be free of unreasonable searches and seizures.

The Office of the Attorney General, however, defended Mafnas' actions, with assistant attorney general Chemere K. McField asserting that the court should deny Sawikan's motion to suppress evidence because Mafnas' actions were supported by probable cause and because all officers diligently conducted a narrow investigation.

The motion is expected to be heard today, Tuesday, before Superior Court associate judge Joseph N. Camacho.

According to Hardwicke, Sawikan was driving his moped north on Beach Road near Downtown Market on Sept. 24, 2011, between 2pm and 3pm when the driver of a Toyota 4Runner flagged Sawikan's attention and forced him to pull over to the side of the road.

The 4Runner driver, described as a white-haired man wearing what appeared to be a police uniform, approached Sawikan, Hardwicke said.

This "white-haired person" allegedly questioned Sawikan where he worked and where he was from and told him not to leave.

Sawikan was reportedly forced to wait until a patrol officer arrived and write him a traffic ticket for not having a driver's license nor registration.

Hardwicke said his client was never informed who this "white haired person wearing a police outfit" was because the person never identified himself.

"Additionally, Mr. Sawikan was never informed by this unknown person why he was forced to pull over in the first place," Hardwicke said.

He asserted that because it is unclear why the unidentified person wearing the police outfit stopped Sawikan and because it is unclear how the patrol officer became involved, Sawikan is entitled to an evidentiary hearing to determine the legal basis for his stop and temporary seizure.

Hardwicke said the U.S. and NMI Constitutions prohibit the detention of a person without reasonable suspicion, as well as the arrest of a person without probable cause.

In the government's opposition to the motion, McField said that Mafnas was patrolling in an unmarked vehicle when he saw a moped driving along Beach Road with a missing registration sticker.

McField said that based on the missing sticker, Mafnas motioned for the moped to stop, approached the moped, and asked the driver, later identified as Sawikan, questions aimed at revealing his identity.

The commissioner, McField said, then radioed the Traffic Unit to dispatch a traffic officer to the scene. The traffic officer came and cited Sawikan for not having a valid driver's license nor registration card.

McField said Mafnas' brief detention of Sawikan was supported by probable cause as Sawikan's license plate did not display a registration sticker.

Mafnas was removed as DPS commissioner in April due to complaints by several police officers.

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$844,650 in attorneys' fees demanded from Fund

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

A Boston-based law firm that represented the NMI Retirement Fund in its Chapter 11 bankruptcy petition is demanding payment of $719,293.50 for professional services and reimbursement of $46,644.32 in expenses, for a total of $765,937.82.

» $765,937 in fees, expenses requested by Boston law firm

Braddock Huesman, the Saipan-based counsel for the Fund, on the other hand, is demanding $9,201 in attorney's fees plus reimbursement in the amount of $2,046 for a total of $11,247.

Colin Thompson, the Saipan-based counsel for the Official Committee of Unsecured Creditors, has demanded compensation of $1,960 plus $382.50 in cost expenses, for a total of $2,341.50.

Don Jeffrey Gelber, the Hawii-based counsel for the Official Committee of Unsecured Creditors, last week demanded $65,124.61 in compensation from the Fund for his and his law firm's participation in the case.

This brings attorneys' fees and expenses to a total of $844,650.93.

According to Jeremy B. Coffey of the Boston law firm Brown Rudnick LLP, he and other attorneys and paraprofessionals expended a total of 1,590 hours for the case.

Coffey said they actually expended 1,794.60 hours, but as an accommodation to the Fund, the law firm agreed to write off 204.60 hours with a value of $95,418.

Coffey listed 10 lawyers, including himself, and two paralegals that incurred the $704,293.50 in attorneys' fees.

Coffey's fee reached $117,895, while the biggest fee among the 10 lawyers in the law firm was by attorney Timothy J. Durken in the amount of $151,857.50.

For Huesman's fee, he said his law firm expended a total of 79.1 hours.

FIRST FRIDAY FILMS

'Houston We Have a Problem'

First Friday Films will be featuring a film titled *Houston We Have a Problem* on July 6, 2012, at 6:30pm at the American Memorial Park Visitor's Center as part of their ongoing monthly environmental film series.

Step inside the energy capital of the world to hear the truth about oil, straight from the hearts of the Texas oilmen themselves. See decades of American presidents who have warned against the dependence on foreign oil and how the U.S. Energy Policy has always been a strategy of Defense, not Offense. Today, in the midst of Global Warming and Peak Oil, the world's energy demand is skyrocketing. Aggressive strategies for securing Crude now go to the highest bidder or the biggest bully. Hear the confessions of oilmen who work in the trenches every day, scrambling to feed America's ferocious appetite even while knowing that this addiction to cheap oil will be the nation's downfall. *Houston We Have a Problem* makes it crystal clear that we must embrace all forms of alternative energy to save the planet and ourselves.

First Friday Films is a monthly film series brought to you through a partnership with the National Park Service and the Division of Environmental Quality (DEQ), with generous support from community groups. This particular film is provided by the Humanities Council.

For planning purposes, the movie runs about 80 minutes long. As always, First Friday Films is free and open to the public. For more information about First Friday Films, check out their website at www.firstfridayfilmssaipan.blogspot.com or email fffsaipan@gmail.com to be added to the mailing list. ***(DEQ)***

DUI checkpoints on Friday, Saturday

The Department of Public Safety will be conducting sobriety checkpoints on Friday, July 6, and Saturday, July 7.

Friday's checkpoint will be on Beach Road Garapan by the 13 Fishermen's Monument from 10:30pm to 11:45pm. Saturday's checkpoint will be on Chalan Pale Arnold (Middle Road) by the Sherwin Williams building, from 1:30am to 2:45am.

Each checkpoint will last at least 75 minutes (1 hour and 15 minutes).

In addition, traffic and highway patrol officers will be conducting highway criminal interdictions, saturation patrols, aggressive driver interdictions, and laser (speed detection) enforcement.

This activity is part of the department's effort to deter, detect and apprehend impaired drivers, and to ensure that all passengers are wearing proper restraining devices, seatbelts, or car seats. ***(PR)***

POT USER

From Page 1

Over 10 percent of these other countries' respective populations also smoked marijuana in the past year.

The report covers annual prevalence of marijuana use as a percentage of the population aged 15 to 64.

A copy of the U.N. report is available at http://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/data-and-analysis/WDR-2012.html.

Press secretary Angel Demapan, when asked for comment, said it "is a big concern for the Commonwealth to be ranked in the top three just behind Palau and ahead of Guam."

"Local and federal law enforcement authorities have been very successful in their operations to raid known plantation areas and seize the illegal plants. The Fitial administration continues to support law enforcement efforts to crack down on all forms of illegal drug use and rid the community from these types of vices," Demapan told *Saipan Tribune*.

The U.N. report cited "government source" and "2007" for the CNMI data.

Rep. Stanley Torres (Ind-Saipan) has been pushing for the legalization of marijuana use for medicinal and/or recreational use, but his pieces of legislation have either gathered dust in committees or were just completely ignored.

"I will reintroduce my two bills—one legalizes marijuana use for medicinal purposes, and the other, legalizes marijuana for medicinal and recreational uses. When you legalize marijuana, you get to control the use, and you get to tax the sale, distribution, plantation and use of marijuana," Torres said in a phone interview.

Torres said he has yet to see the U.N. World Drug Report 2012, but said the CNMI ranking second among countries with highest marijuana use supports his findings that marijuana use is pervasive in the CNMI.

"Even the U.N. report shows it. Why not legalize it?" he added.

The CNMI's population was estimated at 53,883 on April 1, 2010, based on the 2010 Census. Based on the latest U.N. World Drug Report, 22.2 percent of the CNMI smoked marijuana during the reporting period.

MEDICAID

From Page 1

annual budget is only $2.4 million and allotments from its local share amount to only $200,000 each month. Along with the federal share, the program can only disburse $444,000 monthly for all products and services provided to eligible patients.

The two cited the government's budget woes and the matching requirement for the program as factors behind the delayed reimbursements.

It was learned that most Medicaid vendors have not been paid since fiscal year 2011 but the two said there's nothing they can do about it as the government is experiencing severe cash flow problems.

According to Muña, there's a lot of money for the Medicaid program from the federal side, estimated at over a $100 million, including the latest funding for the program's expansion. However, the CNMI cannot tap these available funds until matching funds are identified, Muña said.

"It's nice when these monies come in, but we cannot touch that unless we have local funds and that's really our problem," said Muna, referring to the $90 million that's available until 2019 plus $25 million for the program's expansion and others.

Among the biggest private providers on island is PHI Pharmacy, which suspended its services to Medicaid patients since Sunday due to more than $1 million owed it by Medicaid.

It was learned that PHI Pharmacy, for example, has been sending billing that is more than the program's allotment of $400,000 a month. Sablan and Muña pointed out that with very limited funding for the program, "the small pie has to be split in several cuts" each time a disbursement is allowed.

Marianas Medical Center also announced the suspension of similar services for Medicaid patients starting yesterday until they collect their reimbursement. Sablan disclosed that her office owes MMC less than $200,000.

Medicaid also has providers off-island: Hawaii, Guam, and San Diego. These companies, they said, are also owed by the Medicaid program. They did not disclose the breakdown of current obligations to providers pending completion of updated numbers.

Sablan disclosed that the government has been trying to find other alternatives to the matching requirement, but efforts have been unsuccessful.

REVENUE

From Page 1

a cycle of new, more money to go around," House floor leader George Camacho (Ind-Saipan) told *Saipan Tribune*. He was referring to increased government collection from taxes and fees once businesses earn more.

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial is expected to soon submit a revised budget to the Legislature to reflect the additional projected revenue, Inos said.

Fitial's original fiscal year 2013 budget submission on March 30 was $102 million. This could be raised to $114 million.

"There will be a revision. Vicky [Villagomez of the Office of Management and Budget] is still finalizing it. I believe there's an increase of about $12 million," Inos said in a chance interview yesterday afternoon on his way to attend the funeral Mass for the three Nekaifes brothers who died in a vehicular accident on Isa Drive.

Inos said the administration worked on the numbers and has projected some increases in tourist arrivals in fiscal year 2013 from Japan, Korea and China, among other markets, as well as "aggressive collections on big accounts."

Fiscal year 2013 runs from Oct. 1, 2012, to Sept. 30, 2013.

"That takes into account the fact that Saipan Air is out of the equation," Inos, a former Finance secretary, said.

Press secretary Angel Demapan separately said the budget revision packet "is still undergoing final review by the Office of Management and Budget before it is transmitted to the governor for approval." That was as of the end of government hours yesterday.

The projected figures could still go up or down.

Priorities

Inos said the additional projected revenue will be used primarily to restore 80 work hours biweekly, and pump more money into Medicaid, the medical referral program, and the NMI Retirement Fund.

Senate Fiscal Affairs Committee chair Jovita Taimanao (Ind-Rota) proposes to direct the additional revenue toward restoring 80 hours and helping the Fund.

The government owes the Fund some $320 million in unpaid employer contribution plus interest. Fitial placed the Fund under a state of emergency, and intends to place it under the Department of Finance.

Some government employees who have been getting 16-hour cuts on their biweekly paychecks for almost two years expressed relief upon hearing the news.

"The 64 hours is not enough because the economy is bad. I'd rather work on Fridays and get paid rather than not work on Fridays and not earn complete 80 hours," a 53-year-old government employee said. The father of three hopes this will indeed happen in fiscal year 2013.

While government payroll has been cut by 16 hours, the payroll has been on time the past months for all employees.

House Committee on Commerce and Tourism chair Rep. Edmund Villagomez (Cov-Saipan) also hopes more money will go to the Fund, as well as to pay the government's obligations.

PHI Pharmacy, Marianas Medical Center, and Saipan Health Clinic and other private clinics have temporarily stopped honoring Medicaid starting this week because of the government's non-payment of reimbursement.

Rep. Stanley Torres (Ind-Saipan), for his part, said if the Saipan casino question is placed on the ballot in the Nov. 6 elections, the additional projected revenue in fiscal year 2013 would be "more."

Proponents of legalizing casino gaming on Saipan, including Torres, retiree Dr. Jack Angello, acting Vice Speaker Felicidad Ogumoro (Cov-Saipan), Rep. Ray Basa (Cov-Saipan) and former speaker Pedro "Paduna" Deleon Guerrero, are currently collecting signatures to place the casino question on the ballot. They need 2,590 signatures to put the casino question on the ballot.

House Ways and Means Committee chair Ray Basa (Cov-Saipan) is also poised to pre-file the fiscal year 2013 budget bill, but he said their submission is almost similar to the governor's original budget proposal and did not include Saipan Air's impact.

Saipan Air, which is supposed to be the CNMI-based international carrier, decided to cease operations after its partner firm, Swift Air, defaulted on its contract agreement a week before Saipan Air's scheduled launch on July 1. Swift Air later filed for bankruptcy.

POWER

From Page 1

the possible rate reduction would be, pending all the data and information needed to calculate the new rate.

LEAC is part of the customer's bill that reflects the cost of fuel. It is supposed to go up or down to reflect the cost of buying fuel to run the power plants. The other element of the bill is the electric base rate. In calculating the LEAC rate, CUC uses pricing from the Mean of Platts Singapore.

The current LEAC rate is $0.29569 per kilowatt-hour.

According to Warren, customers will experience further rate declines in the future once CUC fulfills its payments to independent power producer Pacific Marine Industrial Corp., whose contract CUC bought out for $7.25 million. The buyout took effect last Saturday, giving CUC control over Power Plant 4.

"Eventually, after we pay them our operating expenses would be about $340,000 less than the current. This will bring positive impact on our rates," he told *Saipan Tribune*, adding that CUC will pay PMIC over $300,000 monthly.

Meantime, PMIC director Marcin Ostrowski told *Saipan Tribune* during the turnover ceremony for Power Plant 4 at 360 Revolving Restaurant that CUC is current in its obligations to the company.

Even without the Commonwealth Public Utilities Commission at this time, CUC can make necessary adjustments to its rates because the January 2012 tariff allows an automatic adjustment of the LEAC rate not to exceed 4.5 percent of the current LEAC rate.

14 staff to be stationed at new Kagman health center

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

The Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. will station 14 of its staff at the new Kagman Community Health Center once it opens in October this year, according to Roxanne Diaz, director for the Public Health Division.

Of this number, three key positions will be hired and appointed by the Kagman Community Health Center board of directors: the chief operating officer, chief financial officer, and administrative assistant.

Since the grant award of $608,333 for the project requires an in-kind matching fund from the corporation, Diaz said the salaries for the other positions will be shouldered by the corporation, including that of nurse practitioners, mid-level providers, laboratory technician, clerks, and others.

For the KCHC medical director, the corporation will cover 75 percent of the physician's salary while the 25 percent will be paid using the grant award, Diaz said.

Besides paying for the salaries of majority of the center's staff, the corporation will also provide supplies and materials.

Diaz disclosed that some hospital personnel have been already identified for transfer to the center. The center's board, however, has yet to finalize its decision on this. Once the transfer decision is made, all personnel will perform full-time work at the new center.

In the event the board decides to give up the transferred personnel, the staff will go back to their position at the Commonwealth Health Center.

"The beauty about this grant [is] we can actually tap the different [personnel at the hospital] as long as they fit within the scope of work," she said.

Staffing of the center is expected to be completed soon for the scheduled opening in October.

The CNMI, under the provision of the grant, has 120 days or until Oct. 1 to prepare for the center's full operation. Diaz said that renovation is the first step and that it's their biggest challenge at the moment because of the bidding and awarding process for the project. The new health center will be built at the old detention facility in Kagman II

Corporation officials and the center's board of directors asked residents in the area to take pride and ownership in the soon-to-be built medical facility, which will serve not only Kagman residents but all island residents.

The Kagman Community Health Center will serve as a wellness, prevention, and primary care center.

CHC reduction-in-force still on; targets half of staff

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

The emergency reduction-in-force at the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. is still on, with the ultimate goal of cutting down its personnel numbers by half.

Although the staff reduction will take a little longer this time, corporation CEO Juan N. Babauta told *Saipan Tribune* that plans are still pretty much on the table and would be implemented once it is finalized by the corporation's management and board of directors.

"The RIF is still on. It's just taking it a little bit longer. The corporation is still unsustainable and we continue to look for areas in which we need to either cut, streamline, or reduce in order lower our expenditures," he said, adding that the goal to cut—possibly by half—its personnel will remain until the corporation's financial situation improves.

"Until we get to that reasonable level, that effort will continue," he added.

When the corporation took over the operation of the former Department of Public Health in October 2011, 19 personnel were let go with the closure of the dental clinic and merger of the Community Guidance Center with the Commonwealth Health Center. This was followed by at least 24 employees from the Tinian and Rota health centers who were laid off for the same reasons—to streamline operation and reduce personnel costs.

Babauta said last week that the next target of the reduction-in-force is Saipan, and may be done at the organization's administrative offices.

The department had about 600 employees when the corporation took over in October last year. Little by little, the figure went down as a result of the reduction-in-force, resignations, and retirement of hospital personnel.

In the nursing department, 17 have already tendered their resignations and more will follow suit by the end of the year.

Babauta described the continued survival of the Commonwealth Health Center as a "miracle," in light of its very limited funds.

From a $34 million budget in previous fiscal years, the corporation started out with only a "budget" of $5 million as startup capital. This delayed the payroll, housing allowance, and allotments of personnel since then. This is on top of the millions of debt owed by CHC to its vendors.

"We don't want to live like that forever…so we need to do something. The RIF target is really what we can afford in terms of revenue we generate and that's roughly 50 percent of the cost of operation," he said.

At present, Babauta said, the corporation is focusing its efforts on the new revenue management cycle to boost collection and revenue. The personnel, he said, are being trained to multitask such as cashiering, billing, coding, and filing.

Admin works on Medicaid payment plan with clinics

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Fitial administration is working on a payment plan to be presented to private clinics that have temporarily stopped honoring Medicaid because of the government's nonpayment of reimbursement, Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos said yesterday.

"It's a work in progress. They're still reviewing the accounts right now," Inos said.

He said the administration is looking at paying a few thousand dollars, and pay the rest when cash becomes available.

"The government will do something to see that we can extend the benefits of the Medicaid and Medicare services. Medicare is not a problem," he said.

Or the government could prioritize paying for certain medications; for example, heart medicine and those for hypertension, he said.

Inos said $12 million in additional projected revenue for fiscal year 2013 will pump more money to Medicaid, but again, that is for the next fiscal year and not for this year.

"We don't have the resources for the current fiscal year. So we have to budget it in the next fiscal year and because of this forecast, then we can sit down and work with those folks on a reasonable payment plan," he said.

For his part, Rep. Ray Yumul (R-Saipan) said he would suggest to the House Health and Welfare Committee to conduct an oversight hearing on the Medicaid program.

"We need to get to the bottom of this. Thousands of lives are at stake if they can't get access to medicine because clinics stopped honoring Medicaid. But I can only suggest," he said.

PHI Pharmacy, Marianas Medical Center, Saipan Health Clinic, and other private clinics have stopped honoring Medicaid. But everyone is still welcome to avail of these clinics' products and services provided they pay the full amount starting this week.

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New fees equal to penalties in all criminal offenses proposed

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A newly-prefiled bill seeks to double the amount one has to pay if convicted of any criminal offense, a proposal that Rep. Joseph Palacios (R-Saipan) hopes will help deter criminal activities and provide additional funding for police training, overtime pay, and salaries of police officers.

Palacios' bill assesses a fee "in an amount equal to the fine imposed" on convicted persons.

Half of all funds deposited into the Judicial Building Fund will now be deposited into a special fund for the Department of Public Safety to help supplement the department's training, overtime, and salaries of its police officers.

For example, if one is found guilty of drunk driving, the amount that person will have to pay will be doubled—the existing fine will have an equal amount as a proposed fee, Palacios said.

"The main purpose is to save lives and help prevent crimes. The second purpose is to let people using government-provided services to help pay for those same services," he told *Saipan Tribune* on Friday.

Some residents interviewed on Saturday expressed support for the proposal.

Sol San Nicolas, 54, said that doubling the amount one has to pay in fine or fee for drunk driving, for example, will force more people to "obey the law."

"If you double the fine or fee, maybe more people will obey laws including traffic laws. They won't drive when they're drunk, they won't beat [the] red light," she said.

But San Nicolas said it is not enough that the government has these laws or rules in place; there has to be strict implementation.

Albina Lizama, 69, of Capital Hill, as well as Gary C. Tudela, separately agreed that increasing penalty fines or fees could help prevent crimes.

ESGR to host job fair for service members

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Employer Support for the Guard and Reserve Guam-CNMI Committee will be hosting a job fair for service members in the Commonwealth who are looking for "meaningful" employment.

The event is slated for July 19, 10am to 2pm at the Saipan World Resort.

This will be the first job fair to be held in conjunction with the ESGR's Employment Initiative Program or EIP, said David J. Sablan, state chair for the Guam-CNMI Committee.

Launched last year, EIP aims to connect employers with service members and their spouses to facilitate employment opportunities.

"The job fair is where we see the actual connection," said Sablan.

Sablan, along with committee staff and ESGR volunteers on island, conducted last June 27 the Employment Assistance Workshop and the Employer Initiative Symposium to mark ESGR's 40th anniversary.

Sablan disclosed that of the 130 Guard and Reserve components in the CNMI, about 25 to 30 are unemployed. These unemployed service members are mostly young soldiers who joined the military for two years immediately after high school.

"They never did anything other than work in the military," explained Sablan. "Those types of individuals are definitely unemployed and because we have such a young contingent here in the CNMI, I believe we have many of those in that category…so we're trying to help them."

Given that the CNMI has a military contingent that is "quite small," Sablan is anticipating about 15 to 18 employers to participate in the job fair.

In the neighboring island of Guam where the unemployment rate is at 12 percent and is higher than the national average, ESGR has had two job fairs to help unemployed service members, according to Sablan.

Sablan expressed hope that employers in the region can appreciate these service members "for protecting our freedom and way of life, even to the point of making the ultimate sacrifice for us."

"We hope that employers around our region have a strong appreciation and are grateful for that protection and therefore reciprocate by taking care of them by offering them jobs. …In that way, they can become productive citizens of the community and take good care of their families. I think as employers, we have that obligation," he added.

No. of employer-employee disputes dropping

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

State chair David J. Sablan of the Employer Support for the Guard and Reserve's Guam-CNMI Committee cited the effectiveness of their awareness campaign on the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act or USERRA law, resulting in a decline in the number of cases mediated between employers and service member employees in the region last year.

Compared to an average of 50 cases involving disputes between employers and their service member employees in the past three years, only 20 mediations were recorded in 2011, Sablan said. He also boasted of a 93 percent resolution rate for all disputes.

"I think our education campaign on the USERRA law is working," he said. "I'm very happy that a lot of employers have become more supportive, more understanding of the service members' contribution to our way of life."

Signed into law in October 1994, USERRA protects the re-employment rights of service members and Guard and Reserve components following a period of military service.

Sablan noted that misunderstanding of the law is mostly the reason for the disputes and disagreements they mediate at the ESGR level through the Ombudsman Services Program, which he described as "neutral."

"We don't advocate for the service member, we don't advocate for the employer," he explained. "We try to look up the facts from both sides then we take the law and see how the law applies, then we give advice."

Sablan, who served as an ombudsman when starting out at ESGR, said that 7 percent of unresolved cases at their level is referred to the U.S. Department of Labor, which advocates for the service member.

"If they find merit in the case, they will refer it to the U.S. Attorney. This is the ramification of what an employer could face if the Department of Labor gets involved," he warned.

That is why the ESGR Guam-CNMI Committee regularly holds 45-minute presentations on the USERRA law for employers on both island jurisdictions "because people forget so you got to repeat and repeat every now and then," according to Sablan.

With a job fair scheduled on July 19, Sablan said they are looking at conducting the USERRA presentation next month.

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DLNR: NMI to get $265K in penalties from illegal fishers

The Department of Lands and Natural Resources will soon receive approximately $265,000 in funding as a result of penalties stemming from foreign fishing vessels caught illegally fishing in CNMI waters, according to DLNR Secretary Arnold I. Palacios yesterday.

Palacios received this information from NOAA Office of Law Enforcement senior attorney Alexa Coleat the 154th WESPAC Council Meeting held in Hawaii from June 26 to 28.

These vessels were caught illegally fishing in CNMI waters by U.S. Coast Guard Sector Guam while conducting aerial/sea patrol. Foreign fishing vessels caught fishing are boarded and all items on board including fish caught, fishing equipment, including the vessel, are seized and fishermen, boat crew and captain are detained. Disposition of the items are determined by a U.S. District Court judge through court proceedings.

The funds will finance fishery related projects under the CNMI's approved Marine Conservation Plan. Under the plan, penalty funds such as those from illegal fishing cases will be used to support MCP priorities, such as commercial harvest monitoring systems, analysis of data on pelagic fisheries resources, develop fishery management zones for the exclusive economic zone, EEZ enforcement program, construction of cold storage, fish processing and fish market facilities, longline permit, reporting and quota utilization program to facilitate responsible fisheries development, development of fish marketing plan, fisheries technology and education program, enhancing fishing opportunities by deploying community fish aggregation devices, recreational and subsistence fishing economic impact and use study, commercial fisheries baseline assessment, among others.

In October 2011, DLNR issued an announcement of availability of funds of about $300,000. In February 2012, a Marine Conservation Plan Committee was formed to review, select and award proposals submitted to DLNR. The proposals varied from rigging a fishing vessel with the proper equipment to travel for aquaculture workshops, cold storage facilities, vertical longline training course, bottomfish training, etc. Similar announcement of funds will be made for the $265,000 funds that the CNMI expects to receive shortly. ***(Office of the Governor)***

Creditors committee wants paid for long distance, postal charges

The Hawaii-based counsel for the Official Committee of the Unsecured Creditors has demanded reimbursement of over $300 for the long-distance telephone charges and postal charges incurred by the committee's chairman and members.

Attorney Don Jeffrey Gelber on Friday asked the U.S. District Court for the NMI Bankruptcy Division to order the NMI Retirement Fund to reimburse committee chair Mariano Taitano and members Barbara Torres, Roman T. Tudela, Juan B. Cepeda, and Paul Joyce.

Gelber said that following its formation, the committee held several meetings and some of those meetings were conducted by teleconferences with the committee's counsel in Honolulu.

Gelber said that committee members incurred long-distance telephone charges and postal charges.

Gelber said that Taitano incurred postage and long-distance telephone charges in the amount of $169.46. He said the other members incurred long-distance charges—Torres, $50.76; Tudela, $35.08; Cepeda, $31.60; and Joyce, $50.

Last week, Gelber demanded $65,124.61 in compensation from the Fund for his and his law firm's participation in the Fund's Chapter 11 bankruptcy case. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Happy birthday greetings go out to Evelyn M. Mendiola, who is celebrating her special day today, July 3! A birthday wish for you is made with so much love/*guinaiya*! Greetings come from your family. Also, congratulations to 12th grade graduate Brandee Faith Mendiola! We love you!

Church 360 to offer free meal on 4th of July

Church 360 will open its doors to the community for an afternoon of food, fun, and fellowship in celebration of Independence Day on July 4.

The contemporary non-denominational Christian church will be serving free hotdogs, chips, drinks, and dessert to everyone who will attend the event at Suite 103 on the ground floor of Marianas Business Plaza in Susupe from 4pm to 6pm.

"This is a great opportunity whether you're new on the island or just want a fun, family-friendly place to go for a free meal," Pastor Aaron Wood said in a statement.

Church 360's Fourth of July celebration will kick off with the singing of *The Star Spangled Banner* to be led by Worship leader Kayla Wood.

Church 360 will also provide great fellowshipping among adults as well as fun crafts for the children.

Those interested to attend the Fourth of July celebration is encouraged to wear their red, white, and blue attire.

Call 888-2116 or email info@church360saipan.org for more information. ***(Clarissa V. David)***

CNMI GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES

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*Some conditions apply

CLASS	ACTIVE GOVT	MEDICAL Bi-weekly	MED & DENTAL Bi-weekly
SINGLE	Silver Plan	$ 65.00	$ 91.00
	Silver Plus Plan	$ 92.00	$ 118.00
COUPLE	Silver Plan	$ 130.00	$ 182.00
	Silver Plus Plan	$ 184.00	$ 236.00
FAMILY	Silver Plan	$ 208.00	$ 265.00
	Silver Plus Plan	$ 297.00	$ 354.00

Silver Plus Option is for applicants with pre-existing conditions

STAYWELL Contact Information

Phone: 323-4260/61 • Fax: 323-4263 • Email: elplinske@staywellguam.com

FlameTree Terrace Office Building, Lower Capitol Hill

Student loan interest held at 3.4 percent

Interest on federally subsidized Stafford loans will hold at 3.4 percent for another year, as a result of congressional action on Friday. The interest on these college loans had been scheduled to double to 6.8 percent yesterday.

"Those with student loans can now breathe a sigh of relief," said Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP). "Although this is only a one-year reprieve; and we are going to have to continue to work to keep these rates down, where they are affordable."

In the U.S. House of Representatives the vote was 373-52. Every Democrat voted for keeping interest rates at 3.4 percent. 52 Republicans voted to let the rates rise.

Nationwide 7.4 million students would have been affected by the hike in interest, which would have cost $1,000 on average over the life of the loan.

Sablan

The interest rate relief was attached to a larger reauthorization of federal highway programs and flood insurance. Finding a way to pay the $6 billion cost of keeping the interest rates at 3.4 percent had been a stumbling block. Republicans had argued for taking the money from federal programs funding preventive health care. Democrats proposed increasing payrolls taxes for those with higher incomes. In the end the money will come from pension changes.

"Education is the key to our Commonwealth's economic success," Sablan said. "But paying for higher education has become increasingly more difficult; and the scheduled interest jump would have added to the difficulty. So we can be glad that the increase was averted for another year."

Stafford loans are available for both undergraduate and graduate students attending college at least part time. The federal loans are one of the lowest-cost options for paying for school. Repayment normally begins after graduation. Students with greater financial need qualify for the federally subsidized loan rate, which has now been extended for a year. ***(PR)***

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Saipan, MP 96950-8900
Telephone: 233-0081
Facsimile: 233-0090

ATTORNEYS FOR PLAINTIFF
WELLS FARGO FINANCIAL SAIPAN, INC.
aka WELLS FARGO FINANCIAL, INC.

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

WELLS FARGO FINANCIAL SAIPAN, INC. aka WELLS FARGO FINANCIAL, INC. Plaintiff, -v- **LINO B. SANTOS and EMELITA T. SANTOS,** Defendant.	**CIVIL ACTION NO. 11- 0320** **NOTICE OF SALE**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to an Order issued by the Court on June 19, 2012 in this matter, I will sell, at public auction to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth herein below, all of the right, title, and interest of defendants LINO B. SANTOS and EMELITA T. SANTOS in and to the following real property located at Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands:

LOT 011 G 814, AS MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED ON DRAWING/CADASTRAL PLAT NO. 011 G 17, THE ORIGINAL OF WHICH WAS RECORDED ON DECEMBER 9, 1993 AS DOCUMENT NO. 93-4285 AT THE OFFICE OF THE COMMONWEALTH RECORDER, SAIPAN.

Date, Time, and Place of Sale. The sale will be held on July 27, 2012, at the hour of 4:00 p.m., at the law offices of Mailman & Kara, LLC, 2nd Floor, Tan Marikita Bldg., Beach Road at Cpl. Derence Jack Street, Garapan, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands. The sale will be open to the general public.

Inspection of Property. It is the responsibility of each bidder to inspect the property prior to the sale. Failure to inspect the property or any portion thereof will not constitute ground for any claim, adjustment, or rescission by any buyer.

Warranties and Covenants. All property listed for sale in this Notice will be sold in its current condition, and at its current location. The sale will be held without any warranties or covenants whatsoever, whether express or implied, including but not limited to warranties of title, merchantability, and/or fitness for any purpose whatsoever, all of which warranties and covenants are hereby expressly disclaimed. Neither the undersigned nor the plaintiff may give any warranty or covenant, express or implied, with respect to the property listed for sale in this Notice. Neither the undersigned nor the plaintiff shall be liable for the quality of the property listed for sale in this Notice, or for any fault or defect in the description thereof. Buyers shall not be entitled to rescission, damages, or any other remedy on account thereof.

Conduct of Sale.

a. Reserve. The auction sale may be held with reserve. The reserve price on any property offered for sale may or may not be disclosed to bidders, in the sole discretion of the undersigned.
b. Rights and duties of auctioneer. Consistent with the laws, customs, and usages of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands governing auction sales, the undersigned shall have the following rights and duties in conducting the auction sale: (1) to withdraw the property listed for sale in this Notice before sale or before a bid for such property is accepted; (2) to adjourn the sale without notice at any time before any specific property is struck off, without incurring any liability whatsoever thereby; and (3) to reject, on behalf of the seller, any or all bids, for any reason.
c. Bids. Bids may be submitted in advance for any or all of the property listed in this Notice. The highest of such bids will automatically be considered the opening bid for the item. Advance bids may be submitted only in writing, signed by the bidder, and delivered to the law offices of Mailman & Kara, LLC, 2nd Floor, Tan Marikita Bldg., Beach Road at Cpl. Derence Jack Street, Garapan, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands. The bidder assumes all risk of non-delivery, late delivery, or mis-delivery of bids. Any person, including the plaintiff, may bid in person at the auction sale, whether or not such person has submitted an advance bid.
d. Disputes. The undersigned may resubmit any property listed in this Notice if a dispute arises as to any bid thereon.

Enforcement of Auction Sale.

a. Deposit. Every successful bidder shall pay to the undersigned a deposit of ten percent (10%) of the purchase price immediately after the sale is consummated. Payment shall be in cash or by certified check. The balance must be paid to the plaintiff, in care of Mailman & Kara, LLC, within three (3) days from the date of sale, in cash or by certified check. If the balance is not so paid, plaintiff will retain the deposit as liquidated damages, and will again offer the property for sale.
b. Memorandum of Sale. If requested by the undersigned, every successful bidder must sign a Memorandum of Sale, immediately after the sale of any property is struck off at auction.
c. Court Approval. Every sale may be subject to approval by the Court. The auctioneer makes no warranties or promises with respect to court approval of the sale, including but not limited to the time in which such approval may be granted. No delay in the granting of court approval shall be ground for any claim, adjustment, or rescission by any successful bidder. The successful bidder will be promptly notified if and when court approval is sought, and if and when it is granted.

Change of Terms and Conditions. The undersigned and the plaintiff reserve the right to change any of the terms hereof by announcement, written or oral, made before the auction sale or at the commencement thereof, and such change or changes, by virtue of this clause, shall be binding on all bidders by constructive notice.

DATED, this 26th day of June, 2012.

/s/ RONNIE D. HODGES, Auctioneer

High Court: Special position is protected only during term of appointing governor

The Commonwealth Supreme Court issued a ruling in *Peter-Palican v. Commonwealth* last Friday, June 29, 2012, addressing a question certified by the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit.

The Ninth Circuit certified two questions to the Commonwealth Supreme Court: 1. Does Article 3, section 22 of the Commonwealth Constitution, which states that "[t]he Special Assistant may be removed only for cause," mean that the Special Assistant may never be removed from that position without cause—even beyond the term of the appointing governor—or does it mean that the Special Assistant is protected against termination without cause only during the term of the appointing governor? 2. If the answer to the above question is that Article 3, section 22 of the Commonwealth Constitution means the Special Assistant may never be removed for cause even beyond the term of the appointing governor, does Commonwealth law imply a private right of action for monetary damages against the Commonwealth or its officials for violation of that section?

The dispute over Article 3, section 22 arose from the termination of Emerenciana Peter-Palican from her position as the Special Assistant to the Governor for Women's Affairs in 2006. Gov. Juan N. Babauta appointed Peter-Palican, who was later given a letter of termination when the Fitial administration came to office. Peter-Palican contended that the Special Assistant enjoyed life tenure and could only be removed "for cause." The Commonwealth contended that the Special Assistant's term ended with the term of the appointing governor.

The Supreme Court first looked to the plain language of Article 3, section 22 and found that it does not specify a term of office for the Special Assistant. The High Court also examined the constitutional provision's legislative history and concluded that it was insufficient to demonstrate that the Second Constitutional Convention delegates intended the Special Assistant position to have life tenure.

Because neither the language of Article 3, section 22 nor the legislative history behind it addressed the term of the Special Assistant, the High Court looked to interpretation of similar provisions by other courts. Many courts state that if the term of a public office is uncertain, courts should interpret the term of office to the shortest possible time. The High Court also noted that decisions from other jurisdictions will not allow a public official to appoint someone for a term that extends beyond the term of the appointing official. Applying these two rules to Article 3, section 22, the High Court noted that the provision does not specify a term of office for the Special Assistant. In the absence of any explicit language regarding a term of employment, the High Court held that the Special Assistant to the Governor for Women's Affairs is protected against termination without cause only during the term of the appointing governor.

The Supreme Court's full opinion is *Peter-Palican v. Commonwealth*, 2012 MP 7, and can be found at http://www.cnmilaw.org/supreme_12.htm. ***(CNMI Judiciary)***

DOJ seeks $143K in default judgment vs Rota Coconut Hotel

The U.S. government has requested the federal court to issue a default judgment of $143,202.45 against Rota Coconut Village Hotel for allegedly failing to pay federal taxes.

Jeremy N. Hendon, trial attorney for the U.S. Department of Justice Tax Division, asked the U.S. District Court for the NMI to enter the judgment against Rota Coconut Village Hotel for failing to answer or defend the U.S. government's lawsuit that was filed on Sept. 1, 2011.

Hendon said the hotel now owes $98,203.48 in outstanding federal employment taxes and $44,998.97 in outstanding civil penalties, for a total of $143,202.45, plus interest and other statutory additions, which continue to accrue from June 26, 2012.

Hendon said that soon after the filing of the lawsuit, the hotel's then counsel, Gregory Koebel, asked for a 60-day extension to negotiate a settlement instead of responding to the complaint. Hendon said they agreed to extend the deadline several times in an attempt to settle the matter.

On March 22, 2012, Koebel withdrew as counsel for the hotel citing his client's failure to communicate with him about settling the case, Hendon said.

The court then granted the hotel another extension to file an answer by April 15, 2012. Hendon said the hotel failed to answer by then.

Rule 55 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure allows the court's clerk to enter a party's default for failure to plead or otherwise defend a claim. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

Procurement And Supply
CNMI Government

INVITATION TO BID

ITB NO.: ITB12-DPS-093 (A)(B)
Submission Date: July 26, 2012 • Time: 10:00 a.m.

"PURCHASE TWO (2) 2012 KENWORTH TRIPLE COMBINATION PUMPER (1-CIF SAIPAN) (1-CIF ROTA) AND PURCHASE OF FIVE (5) 2012 FORD TYPE II AMBULANCE (4-CIF SAIPAN) (1-CIF TINIAN) FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY-FIRE DIVISION"

Copies of the specifications may be picked-up at the Office of the Director, Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base Dr., Saipan, during regular working hours.

Questions regarding this ITB should be directed to Mr. Thomas M. Manglona, Fire Chief at (670) 664-9137 or (670) 898-3460 no later than the close of business, **July 16, 2012**.

This is a federally funded project; as such, ***local preference is not available***, because its use is prohibited by federal law granting funding for this project.

The Commonwealth reserves the right to reject any and all bids and proposals; in whole or in part, and to waive any imperfection in a bid in the best interest of the Commowealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. All bids shall become the property of the CNMI government.

/S/ **AMBROSIO T. OGUMORO**
ACTING COMMISSIONER DPS

/S/ **HERMAN S. SABLAN**
DIRECTOR, P&S

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

July 3, 2000

US Customs says transshipment not a problem in NMI

The United States Customs Office of Investigations has disclosed that diversions or transshipments of goods is not a problem in the Northern Marianas, according to the most recent report on the CNMI prepared by the investigative arm of the U.S. Congress. The General Accounting Office cited investigations by the U.S. Customs Service which yielded zero evidence on alleged transshipments of apparel products as claimed by the Department of the Interior's Office of Insular Affairs. Of the 16 joint investigations conducted by the CNMI and U.S. Customs Service since 1996, three cases involved narcotics smuggling while one was on a fugitive who fled the Northern Marianas with $10,000 in stolen money.

CNMI renews plea for Compact reimbursement

The government has renewed its call for reimbursement of over $100 million that the United States has owed the Northern Marianas for its assistance to citizens of the Freely Associated States under the Compact agreement. CNMI officials have presented their testimony to the U.S. House Subcommittee on Asia and the Pacific during a recent hearing in Washington D.C. on the federal financial aid to the Republic of Marshalls and the Federated States of Micronesia as part of the accord. The testimony detailed fiscal impacts of the Compact to the local coffers from 1986 to 1998, which the island government estimated to be between $80 million to $108 million. Last year, $15 million have been spent using taxpayers' dollars to assist FAS nationals.

July 3, 20001

Panel told to fine-tune medical bill

The House of Representatives threw back to the House Committee On Judicial And Government Operations the bill that would allow Japanese doctors to practice their profession in the Commonwealth, saying the measure needs more fine-tuning before it passes muster before the Lower House. Of particular concern for Rep. Heinz Hofschneider was the alteration made by the committee on House Bill 12-355, where the word "foreign" was replaced with the word "Japanese" to refer to doctors who would be allowed to practice in the Commonwealth without passing the US medical board.

Legislators want better airline service

North Pacific island legislators, unhappy with Continental Micronesia, have banded together in a coordinated effort to develop expanded regional airline services. The Association of Pacific Island Legislatures, meeting in Guam, has resolved to launch a feasibility study on upgrading services. Aloha Airlines, Freedom Air, Hawaiian Airlines and Air Nauru will be asked ,to provide more flights throughout Micronesia - including the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, the Federated States of Micronesia, Guam, Kiribati, Nauru, the Marshall Islands and Palau - said Representative Dino M. Jones.

July 3, 2002

Heinz: $213M budget doubtful

With the government itself predicting current revenue collections to hit $193.4 million, there is no reason to expect the adoption in toto of the Babauta administration's $213-million budget proposal for Fiscal Year 2003. House Speaker Heinz S. Hofschneider stressed this point, even as he pointed out that, if one were to use the revenue collection trend for the last eight months, the actual collections could be predicted to reach $182.7 million only. This comes soon after acting Gov. Diego T. Benavente wrote to the 13th Legislature, recommending no changes in the administration's spending plan for the next fiscal year.

EPA unveils more US grants

There could be more federal grants available to the Commonwealth, as President Bush inserted $21 million in his proposed budget for a new watershed protection and restoration initiative. No less then U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Christine Todd Whitman wrote to Gov. Juan N. Babauta about this, saying that the EPA will provide grants "to support community-based efforts at as many as 20 watersheds in 2003." "Given the vital role that states will play in implementing this program, I am inviting you and your counterparts across the country to work with EPA as we design the process by which watersheds will be nominated and selected for funding," Whitman stated.

NMTI skill trainings expand available local labor pool

With the recent enactment of U.S. Public Law 110-229, many CNMI businesses are now forced to determine the best method of addressing the transition of their existing nonresident labor pool to qualified U.S. citizens. This process is complicated by the lack of qualified U.S. citizens seeking out employment.

Recognizing this need, the Northern Marianas Trade Institute applied to be a sub-grantee for a grant from the Department of the Interior's Office of Insular Affairs through the CNMI Department of Commerce to provide short-term skill specific trainings targeting unemployed U.S. eligible workers. The NMTI received official notification of award on Dec. 12, 2011, and immediately began working to implement the first set of courses.

Using the grant funds the NMTI was able to offer eight new short-term courses that include: barbering, medical billing/coding, agriculture, sales and marketing, entrepreneurship, life guarding, culinary arts, and hotel/hospitality. The NMTI recognized that providing the necessary skills for course participants was only half the battle. These courses will only make a difference in the lives of these course participants if they are able to use these newly attained skills to secure jobs. To address this issue the NMTI contracted with a staffing firm to provide placement assistance for all course participants.

The most recent courses to be completed are the hotel/hospitality, culinary arts, and medical billing courses, which were just completed this month. These courses were able to provide training for approximately 30 students. Among those 30 students, 10 have secured employment with the remaining candidates currently working with NMTI to secure jobs. Other successes include the life guard course, which had five participants, four of which have since secured unsubsidized full-time employment.

Participants in the medical billing course took the test for national certification on June 15, 2012, and are currently awaiting their results. A graduation ceremony will be held on July 7, 2012 at the Pacific Islands Club. These individuals have been targeted to fill the needs of the Commonwealth Health Center, which is in desperate need of filling the medical billing and coding positions it has vacant. The newly certified medical billers and coders will hold national certifications, a certification rarely held in the CNMI.

"It has always been the goal of our institution to help our participants further their career aspirations," said NMTI president Tony Pellegrino. "The NMTI is happy that we are able to provide these trainings in addition to the other vocational trades we offer regularly. It is rewarding to see that we can help the course participants make a positive impact in their lives."

While NMTI processes the administrative functions of the grant requirement, it has contracted many community professionals to lead and instruct the courses. This approach has allowed NMTI to secure venues and schedules that meet the needs of the students. It also allows NMTI to develop partnerships with many of the CNMI's employers. With the additional provision that NMTI provides services to employers and newly hired NMTI participants, job placements have been successful.

For those participants who have successfully completed a skill-course, the NMTI has begun working the Bridge Project, another sub-grantee, to provide workplace readiness and etiquette skills that allows for the participant to be as polished as possible.

"I am very pleased that the Bridge Project and NMTI have been able to partner up through the grant to provide these services to the participants. We are all motivated to help the participants reach their full potential and find ways to improve their current conditions," said Jim Arenovski, Bridge Project president.

Mark Rabauliman, the Department of Commerce point of contact for the grant, stated, "We are very pleased with the job placement success of the NMTI program. It is especially good to see that the sub-grantees have been able to find ways to leverage each other's programs to maximize the benefits of the grant." ***(Office of the Governor)***

Military training on FDM, W-517

The Emergency Management Office has announced that the U.S military would be conducting military training on the island of Farallon de Mendenilla and at W-517 irregular polygon south of Guam on July 3 and 6, from 8am to 12:59am.

The general locations for this activity will on the island of Farallon de Mendenilla training area on a 10 nautical mile radius on all quadrants and at W-517 irregular polygon south of Guam comprising 14,000 nautical miles of airspace that begins south of Guam and extends south-southwest into international waters.

Due to the danger imposed by this activity, EMO is advising the general public, especially fishermen, commercial pilots, and marine tour operators, to stay away from this area during the time and dates indicated.

For more information, contact the Emergency Management Office, Operations Section at telephone numbers 322-9528 and 322-9529, VHF Marine CHNL 16, and HF Single Side Band Radio on 5.205.0 or dial CNMI 211. ***(EMO)***

United increases Guam-Sendai frequency

»Offering four-times-weekly and charter passenger service to meet increasing demand

GUAM—United Airlines announced yesterday that it will increase its flight frequency between Guam and Sendai, Japan from twice weekly to four times weekly, effective Oct. 1, 2012.

United will introduce additional flights on Monday and Friday, in addition to the current Thursday and Sunday weekly schedule.

With the four times weekly service, United will return to its regular flight schedule between Guam and Sendai, as it was prior to the temporary closure of Sendai Airport following the Great East Japan Earthquake on March 11, 2011.

On June 22, 2011, United was the first to announce the resumption of regular service by a foreign airline at Sendai Airport. Sendai is one of 10 cities in Japan that United connects via Guam through nearly 70 weekly flights.

The four-times-weekly nonstop service between Guam and Sendai will be operated by a Boeing 737-700 aircraft, with 12 business class seats and 112 economy class seats, for a total capacity of 124 seats.

"United has been providing service between Guam and Sendai for 21 years, and we are very happy to return to pre-3/11 levels of flight frequency," said Barry Bergmann, United's managing director for Micronesia and Southeast Asia. "The decision to increase flights to four times a week was based on the strong support of our current service by our customers and travel agency partners along with the strong demand we see for the future."

Bergmann added, "We are also planning three additional roundtrip charter flights this summer to meet increasing demand for travel to Guam. We will continue to monitor the market demand, and add capacity accordingly, in order to continue to provide the highest level of service to our customers in the region." ***(PR)***

BANK OF SAIPAN
Marianas Pride

P.O. Box 500690
Saipan, MP 96950
670-235-6260

June 30, 2012

Subject: Dormant Deposit Accounts

The deposit accounts listed below are currently held at the Bank of Saipan and have been inactive for thirty-six months or longer. If you believe you have a claim to any of these accounts please make your claim at the Chalan Kanoa Branch of the Bank of Saipan before July 30, 2012.

Pursuant to Public Law 17-69, any unclaimed deposits remaining from this list after July 30, 2012 will be paid to the "CNMI Treasurer" and delivered to the Department of Commerce, Banking Division. Therefore, any claims made after July 30, 2012 must be made at the CNMI Department of Commerce, Banking Division.

Sincerely,

The Bank of Saipan

Account Name		
Carolinian Affairs, Inc.	COTMEN	United Tour Master, Inc GSA for Phil. Airlines
CNMI Contractors Association	Friends of the Museum	Zhong Ming Corporation dba Airtek
GOP (REP) Ladies Association	Pacific Holdings LLC	Yong Hua Xue
Law Office of Michael W. Dotts	Jose R. Lifoifoi	Winfred W. Luo
GIST Corporation	Yunsook Hwang	Yin Xing Mei / Ya Mei Yu
Wholesale Disributors, Inc.	Sunrise Corporation dba Sun Sign	Ling Wang
PLSNM	Lynn F. Yorormad	Zhenyuan Zheng
CNMI Youth Soccer Organization	Rex I. Palacios and Company, LLC	Sheng Ping Zhao
Osamu Sugimoto	Vincent M. Rabauliman	Irving Randall Borden
Zhijian Zhuo	Xi Ji Huang / Xiao Tong Huang	Lenae Anne Acosta
GLA LLC	Michelle Hai Hom	Patrick James Timmerman
Saipan Press Inc.	William A. Robinson	Zhenyao Zhong
Eric P. Niedermeyer	Jian Shao	Ying Du
2006 Micronesian Games Organizing Committee	Leisure Time Investment Inc.	Yanjun Yu / Aihua Bei
CNMI Youth Foundation Inc.	Akira Takahashi	Jessica Flores
Tinian Farmers Association Inc.	Shigenori Ohwaku	Ping Le
Manbin Corporation dba Finasisu Market	Soledad D. Borja T/F Lourdes D. Borja	Jason Aldan / Jose Palacios
John N. Holbrook	ARW-A Corporation	Dan Feng
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Tinian Fishermen and Boaters Association	Cheong Shirlene Lin	

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Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
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MEMBER
The Associated Press
Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

A Supreme Court victory for common sense

The landmark Supreme Court ruling Thursday upholding key tenets of the federal health-care overhaul was a victory for common sense. It offers hope to so many Americans who thought health insurance was beyond their reach.

Even as both parties jockey for advantage in November, the five justices who upheld the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act pulled the nation back from a disastrous U-turn on reform efforts soon to reach full stride.

At stake was not only the future aim of providing for almost two-thirds of the 50 million uninsured, but also major structural reforms under way in a sprawling sector of the U.S. economy that accounts for $2.7 trillion in spending, or $1 in every $6.

Already, people are benefiting from popular provisions of the 2010 law, which fully kicks in 18 months from now: Retirees, and all women, now have access to preventive care like mammograms and wellness visits. Nearly seven million young adults remain on their parents' health plans. An additional 5.3 million Medicare recipients reaped $3.7 billion in savings on medicine. With old lifetime limits of private insurance gone, you can no longer run out of coverage.

Meanwhile, the business of medicine is being transformed by mergers like the just-announced linkage of the Abington and Holy Redeemer health systems, the digitizing of patient records, and the expansion of best practices that are more affordable and, therefore, accessible.

Now the court has made it possible to look to 2014, when individuals will be able to shop for coverage on new insurance exchanges—their premiums reduced by subsidies based upon income.

It's hard to imagine that Republicans once disparaged "Obamacare" as little more than a mandate to eat your vegetables. Conservative Justice Antonin Scalia was the one who tossed out the GOP talking point, asking when the case was argued whether Congress could also require everyone to eat broccoli because it's healthy.

With Chief Justice John G. Roberts Jr. joining the liberal wing to cast the deciding vote, the court rightly rejected such trivialization. While the justices brushed back a heavy-handed expansion of state Medicaid programs for the poor—in effect, making that optional—they ruled that Congress was well within its rights to impose a tax penalty on those who don't acquire insurance by 2015.

As Roberts wrote of the penalty, "It is reasonable to construe what Congress has done as increasing taxes on those who have a certain amount of income, but choose to go without insurance."

Although as unpopular as broccoli, taxes are legal—even if abhorred by the no-new-taxes ideology that drove GOP attorneys general in 26 states to challenge the ACA.

No doubt, critics will contine to steam over the health-care law. But most citizens actually favor the benefits that the ACA promises, and what's most important about this pivotal ruling is that it keeps the nation on track to help millions of people live healthier lives.

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The Obama edge

By DOYLE MCMANUS
Los Angeles Times

Doyle McManus is a columnist for The Los Angeles Times*. Readers may send him email at doyle.mcmanus@latimes.com.*

On paper, June looked like a bad month for President Obama. It began with a gaffe, his lighthearted comment that "the private sector is doing fine." Then the Federal Reserve revised its growth forecast downward, making it clear that 8 percent unemployment is likely to linger past election day. Consumer confidence has sagged to a five-month low, and in one poll released this week, 61 percent of Americans said they think the country's on the wrong track.

On top of that, Mitt Romney is out-raising the president in campaign donations, an unusual problem for an incumbent to face.

So how, amid all that bad news, has Obama clung to a narrow lead of about 3 percentage points in an average of major polls? And how has he built a more impressive margin in the 12 swing states that will actually decide the election, 50 percent to 42 percent in an NBC News-*Wall Street Journal* Poll released this week?

Part of the reason is that Obama has the incumbency advantage, and he's been using it in a blur of executive action to remind the Democratic electorate that he's their guy. He has made it easier for students to repay their loans. He endorsed gay marriage after years of waffling, a decision one Romney advisor privately conceded was "a net plus for the president." He announced that the government would stop deporting most undocumented immigrants who entered the United States as children.

Voters know Obama, but many of them don't know Romney yet.

Romney, who doesn't have the ability to change government policy with a signature, has had a hard time competing.

Equally important, though, Obama and his campaign have waged an effective and ferocious battle to define Romney as a heartless capitalist whose former company, Bain Capital, has sent jobs overseas.

Characteristically, Vice President Joe Biden delivered the attack in its purest form: "You've got to give Mitt Romney credit," he said in Iowa on Tuesday. "He is a job creator—in Singapore and China (and) India."

Romney's representatives hotly deny the claim that Bain-owned firms ever shipped any U.S. jobs overseas, and they insist the company created jobs here too. But that's not an argument that's easy to win, and it's not a debate the GOP wants its candidate to get tangled up in.

The Obama campaign's strategy is straightforward. It wants to impeach Romney on what he cites as his main qualification for the presidency: that he's a successful businessman who knows how to create jobs in the private sector.

Voters know Obama, but many of them don't know Romney yet; in one recent poll, only 57 percent of respondents knew he was a Mormon. The Obama campaign realizes it has a brief window when it can shape how people see the GOP candidate.

And the strategy may be working, at least in the short run. The NBC-Journal poll found that in the 12 swing states, where the Obama campaign has been running television ads, the percentage of voters saying they have an unfavorable view of the Republican grew from 36 percent a month ago to 41 percent now.

Romney advisors point out that when Newt Gingrich attacked Romney's record as a capitalist in the primary campaign, the gambit backfired. But Democrats say that was because the message sounded anti-capitalist to GOP primary voters; the public at large, they hope, will be more receptive.

We'll see. Obama's chances this fall are still, in large part, hostage to events, from the voters' reaction to this week's Supreme Court ruling on healthcare to whether the latest economic crash in Europe spreads to our shores as well. And once the GOP and its "super PAC" allies start spending in earnest, they'll be hitting the president hard with negative messages of their own.

At this point, Romney campaign officials don't sound terribly worried. "Obama is doing better…because he's outspending Romney" on television advertising," one Romneyite told me. "The attacks on Romney's wealth and Bain are not sticking."

But they are probably relieved, nevertheless, that Romney has decided not to fly to London to watch his wife's very expensive horse compete in the Olympics; it wouldn't have played well in Ohio.

Is that unfair? Probably. But politics ain't beanbag—and it's certainly not dressage.

EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Gongchandang

By JAIME VERGARA
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Jaime R. Vergara (jrvergarajr2031@aol.com) previously taught at San Vicente Elementary School on Saipan and is currently a guest lecturer at Shenyang Aerospace University in China.

Chinese holidays are heavy on the first day of the month. *Yiyi* (one-one) is New Year's Day following the Gregorian calendar. *Yiyi* in the lunar calendar often falls in February so we get to celebrate New Year twice, the toots with the sun, and the dragon dance with the moon.

March focuses on good works in remembrance of PLA's Lei Feng, the exemplar who died from a fallen telephone pole while directing a backing truck. No heroics on the battlefields here! Women's day follows without much hope of changing patriarchy anytime soon, Mao's "women hold half of the sky" notwithstanding.

April has tomb-dusting day, *Qingming,* the day of ancestors following April Fool's Day. *Wuyi* (five-one), May 1 is workers' time in this proletarian state. June 1, *liuyi* (six-one) has the attention on children, and this June saw the lunar *duanwo* (double five), the dragon boat festival. August 1, *bayi* (eight-one), is Peoples Liberation Army day. October 1, *shiyi* (ten-one), is the national day.

July 1, *Chiyi* (seven-one), is *Gongchandang* Day when the red flag with the hammer and sickle waves in the wind. Literally, "everyone together group" day, this Communist Party does not connote images of dour Lenin-Stalin straight jackets, but more of lively countryside communities. We recall that Mao Zedong ideologically broke away from Lenin-Stalin mentors in the '60s and proclaimed socialism with a Chinese face instead.

But first, we trace our bias. The colorful USAF Colonel Edward Lansdale masterminded Ramon Magsaysay's Malacañang Palace ascendancy in 1953 and created villains out of the local insurgents, the Hukbalahap, a Filipino militant group that fought the Japanese on WWII. It was deeply into agrarian reform. This upset the landowners.

When Mao defeated Chiang Kaishek's *Kuomintang*, America convulsed with the question, "Who lost China?" The questioned reflected two illusions; 1) that China's Chiang was in the U.S. pocket, and 2) that the nationalists' style of governance was more along America's tradition than the socialist one of the *Gongchandang.*

America in the Philippines was not about to let the Huks replace the American boys in government so Lansdale's ad copy savvy promoted Magsaysay as the poor boy who could do good on agrarian reform, while the straggling Huks were just plain no-good. The Huks were too much like other revolutionaries in the Asian mainland. Besides, Mao had the temerity to cross the Yalu and interfere in Uncle Sam's designs on the Korean peninsula.

Part of Lansdale's tactic was a film shown to the public of the evils of organized labor in factories and agrarian unrest. Our Methodist Church's mobile dental clinic annually visited my neck of the woods in Sanchez Mira, Cagayan, northern Luzon in the early '50s. Their nightly showing of the film conditioned me to think that commies were the sly slimes of the world! But Lansdale was wrong. Magsaysay was no reformist, and the Huks are still around agitating for land reform.

The '60s Filipino nationalism was pro-democratic but anti-American. U. S. arrogance in Vietnam grated against the intellectual grain. When China's *East is Red* song was aired, it caught our imagination. Yuenan's Uncle Ho Chi Minh replaced our affectionate ties to colonial masters.

Add giddy America of the '60s after MLK's powerful *I Have a Dream* speech quickly got drenched in the gloom of JFK's assassination, and our USIS-promoted illusion of American institutions being citadels of civil liberties and liberal learning shattered (I studied in Kentucky, Texas, and North Carolina), we lent an ear to the call to reclaim our Asian identity.

Still trusting that America had an umbrella big enough to contain the diversity of the planet, we acceded to the call without breaking ties with our host. Serendipitously, it also gave us the image of the "earthrise." The paradigm of the global village became the basis of our personal and corporate identity ever since.

The Everyone-Together-Party this first of July paraded the cultural gifts of 56 ethnic groups within Zhongguo. Never mind that more than 80 percent of the population is of the predominant Hans! The cultural renaissance underway is getting airtime. Phoenix Legend, aka *Feng Huan Chuang Qi,* has one of their songs used by Houston Rockets' cheerleaders to shake their booty. The dance tune, from a *Neimenggu* (Inner Mongolia) beat, is now popular on dance floors around the world!

Deng Xiaoping in the '80s led the Communist Party into a market economy with Chinese characteristics. Party Chair Hu Jintao, whose term ends this year, keeps the nation on the path toward a harmonious society with a practical eye on what works and a scientific approach to governance. To be sure, the rough edges of doctrinaire socialism remains, and diehard ideologues still command a following within the Party. But the image of the untrustworthy commies of my youth is quite different from the CCP young members who sit in my Oral English classes. Indeed, ideology is not at the core of Zhonnguo's preoccupation. The *Tao* (the method, the practice, the way) is!

And the Way in food and performances in our everyone-together-party was just fine!

The court saved my lifeline

By SPIKE DOLOMITE WARD
Los Angeles Times

Spike Dolomite Ward heads a nonprofit arts education organization in Los Angeles. Her blog Health Hazards is at highdeductibles.blogspot.com. She wrote this for the Los Angeles Times.

Not to be overly dramatic, but for me the Supreme Court decision on the Affordable Care Act was a matter of life and death. Because the law was largely upheld, I will be able to continue receiving treatment for breast cancer.

I was one of the early beneficiaries of the law. When I was diagnosed with an aggressive form of breast cancer late last year, I had no health insurance, which meant my options were extremely limited. No insurer would pick up someone in my circumstances. But luckily, the Pre-existing Condition Insurance Plan had already kicked in, and it made it possible for me to purchase insurance under a government program.

I was uninsured not because I'm a lazy, freeloading deadbeat but because my husband and I are self-employed. We had been purchasing health insurance on the individual market along with 6 percent of the rest of the population. But after exhausting all of our resources trying to keep up with premiums of $1,500 a month, we had no choice but to cancel it.

I can tell you that "Obamacare"—at least the part I've participated in—works. A week ago, I had a double mastectomy after five months of chemotherapy. I have been receiving outstanding care in West Hills—no death panels, no rationing, no waiting, no government officials telling my doctors what to do, no denials of tests or treatments, none of the stuff that the plan's critics said would happen.

Six months ago, when I first wrote about my situation in this newspaper, I got hate mail from people who said I deserved to die. But there was also a lot of curiosity and a lot of encouragement and support. Much of the curiosity was from abroad. Canadians, French, Italian, British and Swiss cannot understand why healthcare reform is so politicized here; why most people don't know anything about the Affordable Care Act; how we can be so cruel to one another; and why we criticize their healthcare systems.

As a result of that Op-Ed, I have been asked to share my story a lot. I have obliged because I feel it is my civic duty to pay it forward.

I never thought I'd get cancer. Nobody does. Once you get it, your life is turned upside down. For five months I underwent four hours of chemotherapy treatments once a week. The side effects were brutal. Then, just a week ago, I had surgery, which entailed a three-day hospital stay. I'm writing about this not because I want pity but to make the point that undergoing chemotherapy and major surgery for cancer is stressful enough without having to worry about being able to pay for it.

Most people do not have any idea what is in the Affordable Care Act, yet public opinion polls find that the majority of Americans are against it. The free press hasn't done its job in reporting the facts. And the Republicans have done a far better job of spreading lies and scaring people than the Democrats have done educating people. It stuns me how many Americans believe erroneously that they will be kicked off their existing private healthcare plans if the law survives.

I'm immensely relieved that the Affordable Care Act survived the Supreme Court. But that doesn't mean it's safe. John Boehner and Mitt Romney are still determined to repeal the law, and they could succeed if Americans don't educate themselves, and that doesn't mean simply listening to the talking heads on Fox News. The Affordable Care Act is quite likely to affect your life at some point. And it may already have if, like me, you found yourself uninsured and facing a crisis, or if your post-college children couldn't find jobs that provided them with health insurance.

Now is an excellent time to learn about the law. You might want to start at http://www.heathcare.gov, which has excellent information about what the Affordable Care Act does and doesn't do. But wherever you go for information, take some time to understand this historical legislation before you comment.

Asian-American situation more varied than reported

By KHIN MAI AUNG
The Progressive Media Project

Khin Mai Aung is director of the Educational Equity Project at the Asian American Legal Defense and Education Fund. She wrote this for Progressive Media Project, a source of liberal commentary on domestic and international issues.

Beware the "model minority" stereotype about Asian-Americans.

The Pew Center recently issued "The Rise of Asian-Americans," stressing that they have the highest income and are the best educated of any racial group in the United States. But that generalization paints too rosy a picture. It fails to shine a light upon some of the most glaring educational and class disparities among Asian communities.

The Pew report provides detailed information about the six largest Asian ethnic subgroups in the U.S. population: Chinese, Filipino, Indian, Japanese, Korean and Vietnamese. The data reveals stark differences among them in areas such as education and median earnings.

While 49 percent of all Asian adults over 25 were college educated, only 28.5 percent of Vietnamese adults fell into this category, compared to 70 percent of Indian adults. Likewise, while the median yearly earnings for all Asians is $48,000, for Vietnamese it is $35,000, compared to $54,000 for Japanese.

Apart from the six largest Asian ethnic subgroups, the Pew report lumps remaining ethnic groups such as Bangladeshis, Burmese, Cambodians, Hmong, Laotians, Pakistanis, Thais and Indonesians into a single "Other Asian-American" category. People in these groups are disproportionately likely to be refugees or recent immigrants who tend to face greater educational and income disparities. The "Other Asian-American" category reported a lower than average college education rate of 36 percent, as well as a low annual median earning of $36,600.

By neglecting these disparate experiences, the Pew report provides grist to the mill for those who wish to cast Asian-Americans as members of a "model minority" who do not face the same challenges as African-Americans, Latinos and other people of color.

Take the discussion of race-conscious policies in higher education. Opponents of race-conscious policies claim that Asian applicants are harmed when race is considered as one of many factors in admissions programs. But members of many Asian subgroups still need and benefit from these policies.

For example, according to the 2000 census, more than 50 percent of Cambodian, Hmong and Laotian-Americans achieve less than a high school education, compared to 19.6 percent of whites. But this fact is nowhere to be found in the Pew report, which stresses the high levels of education that Asian-Americans achieve as a whole.

Fortunately, the report does note that Asian-Americans do not believe their race harms them in the college admissions process. Only 12 percent believe it hurts to be an Asian-American applicant. This is important because, with the U.S. Supreme Court case Fisher v. UT-Austin set to determine the future of race-conscious admissions this fall, Asian-Americans have been depicted as feeling victimized by race-conscious policies. Clearly, that is not the case.

If the Pew report had paid sufficient attention to the educational and income disparities among Asian-American groups, it would have given a clearer picture of the issues and needs of the diverse Asian-American community.

The model-minority stereotype must go.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 5 to 15 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 5 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲87° ▼76°	▲87 ° ▼78°	▲88° ▼78°	▲88° ▼78°	▲88° ▼78°

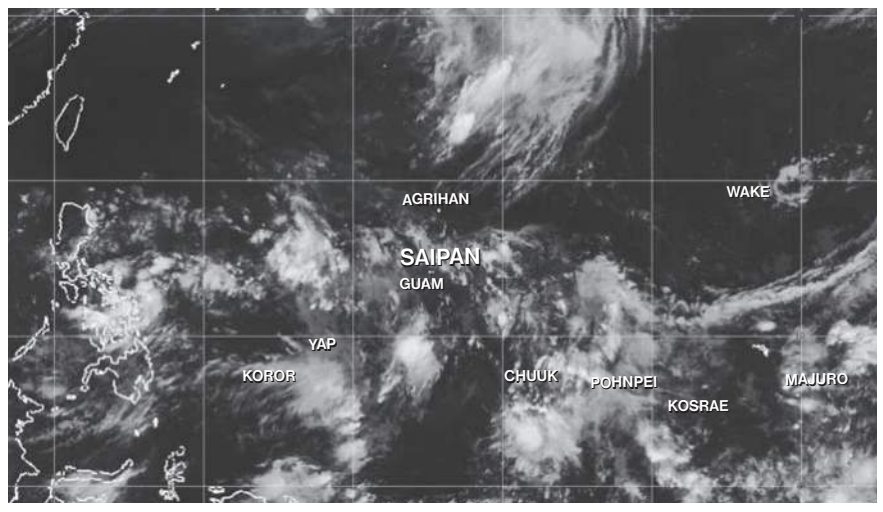
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	▲86	▼79
Palau	Showers	▲84	▼75
Yap	Showers	▲89	▼76
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	▲85	▼77
Pohnpei	Showers	▲86	▼76
Kosrae	Showers	▲86	▼76
Majuro	Showers	▲86	▼80

Around The Globe

Auckland	Rain	▲58	▼51
Beijing	Sunny	▲95	▼72
Hong Kong	Thundershowers	▲89	▼81
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	▲85	▼72
London	Showers	▲70	▼62
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	▲74	▼60
Manila	Thundershowers	▲86	▼79
Melbourne	Showers	▲55	▼43
Miami	Mostly Sunny	▲89	▼78
New York	Mostly Sunny	▲88	▼68
Osaka	Thunderstorms	▲80	▼71
Paris	Mostly Cloudy	▲75	▼63
Pusan	Thundershowers	▲82	▼71
Rome	Sunny	▲88	▼69
Salem	Partly Cloudy	▲75	▼55
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	▲62	▼53
Seoul	Thundershowers	▲85	▼74
Tokyo	Thundershowers	▲81	▼72
Washington, DC	Thundershowers	▲95	▼76

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, MONDAY, JULY 2, 2012
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A monsoon trough extends east-southeastward from 10N130E to west of Chuuk at 8N147E. Scattered showers are seen north of Yap between 12N and 18N from 130E to 142E and southeast of Yap within 250 miles of a line from EQ138E to 10N142E. Low-level convergence is producing scattered showers near Saipan within 60 miles of a line from 16N143E to 15N150E. A surface trough stretches north-northeastward from 1N154E to 14N158E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are present between Pohnpei and Chuuk within 150 miles of the trough axis. Trade-wind convergence is causing scattered showers and a few thunderstorms south of Kosrae within 100 miles of a line from EQ162E to 4N160E and across the Marshall Islands between the equator and 5N from 169E to the date line and within 150 miles of a line from 8N169E to 11N180. An upper-level low is centered at 20N169E. A few thunderstorms are present east of Wake within 100 miles of the low. A surface trough heads northeastward from 23N146E to 25N149E. This system is combining with upper-level divergence to generate scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms between Minami Tori Shima and Iwo To Island or north of a line from 23N144E to 24N155E.

Tides

Saipan Harbor

1:48 AM	Today	Low Tide:	1.2 Feet
6:51 AM	Today	High Tide:	2.1 Feet
2:24 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.7 Feet
9:30 PM	Today	High Tide:	2.0 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	5:51 AM	6:51 PM
Wednesday	5:51 AM	6:52 PM
Thursday	5:52 AM	6:52 PM
Friday	5:52 AM	6:52 PM
Saturday	5:52 AM	6:52 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	6:19 PM	4:57 AM
Wednesday	7:15 PM	6:00 AM
Thursday	8:06 PM	7:02 AM
Friday	8:53 PM	8:00 AM
Saturday	9:36 PM	8:56 AM

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

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For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

HOW TO SUBMIT

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- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

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Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JUNE 13, 2012

DEPARTURES

GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)

UA5062	2:40am	3:10am	1, 3, 5

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA5070	4:35am	5:25am	2, 4, 6, 7
UA5062	4:50am	5:40am	1, 3, 5 via ROP
UA5068	8:40am	9:30am	Daily
UA5074	11:30pm	12:20pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA5076	3:10pm	4:00pm	Daily
UA5078	6:50pm	7:40pm	Daily
UA5072	9:55pm	10:45pm	Daily

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

DL287	6:05am	8:45am	Daily
DL297	4:35pm	7:20pm	Daily

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ606	2:20am	6:00am	1
OZ606	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
OZ604	3:30pm	6:55pm	Daily

SAIPAN-GUANZHOU (CAN)

3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

3U8648	6:10am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ606/701	2:20am	11:05am	1 via ICN
OZ606/701	2:50am	11:05am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA5070/191	4:35am	9:55am	3, 6 via GUM
DL287/173	6:05am	10:00pm	Daily via NRT
UA5076/183	3:10pm	8:45pm	Daily via GUM
UA5076/193	3:10pm	10:25pm	2, 5 via GUM-Palau
OZ604/703	3:30pm	10:45pm	Daily via ICN
UA5072/PR111	9:55pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

OZ606/721	2:20am	11:50pm	1 via ICN
OZ606/721	2:50am	11:50pm	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA5076/147	3:10pm	9:45pm	1, 5 via GUM
OZ604/723	3:30pm	10:40pm	Daily via ICN

ARRIVALS

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)

UA5062	3:40am	5:40am	1, 3, 5

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA5062	2:40am	4:15am	1, 3, 5
UA 5069	2:45am	3:35am	2, 4, 6, 7
UA5071	7:10am	8:00am	Daily
UA5073	10:05am	10:55am	Daily
UA5075	1:45pm	2:35pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA5077	5:25pm	6:15pm	Daily
UA5079	8:35pm	9:25pm	Daily

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

DL298	10:25am	3:00pm	Daily
DL288	8:15pm	12:50am+1	Daily

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

OZ603	8:50am	2:20pm	Daily
OZ605	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ605	8:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

GUANZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

3U8647	10:40pm	5:00am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

DL172/288	7:50am	12:50am+1	Daily via NRT
UA190/5077	10:55am	6:15pm	3, 6 via GUM
UA190/5079	10:55am	9:25pm	3, 6 via GUM
OZ702/605	12:15pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/605	12:15pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
PR110/UA5071	10:10pm	8:00am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
UA192/5071	9:45pm	8:00am+1	2, 5 via GUM-Palau
UA184/5071	10:55pm	8:00am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/5071	11:25pm	8:00am+1	2, 5 via GUM
OZ704/603	11:45pm	2:20pm+1	Daily via ICN

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

OZ724/603	12:30am	2:20pm	Daily via ICN
OZ722/605	1:10pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ722/605	1:10pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
UA180/5071	10:35pm	8:00am+1	1, 5 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U: Sichuan Airlines; UA: United Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana

ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The *Saipan Tribune* is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam–Rota			
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily
Rota–Saipan			
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily
Guam–Rota			
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily
Rota–Saipan	17:50	18:20	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily
Rota–Guam	10:20	10:45	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily
Rota–Guam			
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily
Saipan–Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily
FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily
FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily
FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily
FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily
FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily
FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily
Tinian–Saipan			
FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily
FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily
FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily
FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily
FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily
FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily
FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily
FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily
FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily
FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily
FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily
FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily
FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily

Business

Apple's iconic iPhone turns 5

By JOHN BOUDREAU and PAT MAY
SAN JOSE MERCURY NEWS

SAN JOSE, Calif.—Even more than the introduction of the personal computer, the iPhone has upended the technological world order and revolutionized how people manage their daily lives.

And as of Friday, it's just 5 years old.

"There has been no other device that has changed social and technological life in such a short time," said Clifford Nass, a Stanford University sociologist and psychologist who studies how technology impacts society. "There has been nothing like it in the world."

First put on the market June 29, 2007, the iPhone created a platform that has inspired thousands of developers from around the world to write apps that enable users to organize their lives in ways most people couldn't imagine before 2007—allowing them to get minute-by-minute news updates, find places to eat, get directions and locate friends no matter where they are. For its latest model, the iPhone 4S, Apple added voice recognition technology named Siri, which serves as a digital assistant that answers questions and sends emails on voice command.

"It's breathtaking innovation that cannot be overstated," summed up Silicon Valley futurist Paul Saffo.

When Apple first unveiled the iPhone, though, many failed to see the technological tsunami it would trigger. Some analysts called it "overhyped." Others saw it more as a toy than serious computing device like RIM's BlackBerry, so beloved by its users that they jokingly referred to it as the "CrackBerry" because of its addictive features. On Thursday, RIM announced plans to cut 5,000 jobs by the end of its fiscal year after another dismal quarter of plunging revenue. Nokia, meanwhile, has announced it will slash 10,000 jobs by 2013.

"Both of those companies—Nokia and RIM—are facing extinction," said Sterne Agee analyst Shaw Wu.

Other companies, from Japan's Sony to Taiwan's HTC to Microsoft, also have failed to keep up with Apple, which now garners about 75 percent of the smartphone market profits and has sold 218 million iPhones, said Chetan Sharma, an independent wireless analyst.

Apple took its first step away from being simply a computer company with the iPod digital music player. But it was the iPhone that made Apple "the most valuable company in the world," noted Needham analyst Charles Wolf.

For its fiscal 2007 year, Apple reported $24.6 billion in revenue. For its current fiscal year, Wu predicts the company will hit $160 billion in sales—a 550 percent increase that is directly related to the success of the iPhone. The iPhone not only juiced sales of Apple's Macintosh computers but also played a critical role in the 2010 launch of the iPad, which now dominates the tablet market as competitors struggle to match its popularity.

"Even Steve Jobs, I would guess, did not appreciate the sheer magnitude of what he unleashed," Saffo said of the late Apple co-founder.

As an "intimate" pocket computer, the iPhone allows users to remain constantly connected with friends and family wherever they go through texting and social media apps, but it also has become a barrier to human interactions, Nass said. Loaded with games, news apps, music and video, it can lead people to be disengaged with those around them, he said.

The iPhone also can be addictive, said Cynthia Jones, a 48-year-old San Jose teacher who complains she can't live without hers, which she says has both enriched and diminished her life.

Jones says the device allows her to keep in touch with family and friends through testing, emails and phone calls, but also leaves her no down time.

SAN JOSE MERCURY NEWS/MCT

All eyes are on a prototype of the new iPhone during Macworld in San Francisco, California, Tuesday, January 9, 2007.

Midweek July Fourth causes muddle for travelers

NEW YORK (AP)—Who knew the calendar could cause so much vacation heartburn?

For the first time in five years Independence Day falls on a Wednesday, leaving travelers unsure when to celebrate and worrying those who make a living off tourists.

"The midweek holiday seems to have travelers confused," said Anthony Del Gaudio, vice president of hotel sales for Loews Hotels, which isn't seeing the normal July Fourth spike in bookings.

Those who sell vacations say this year's calendar gives Americans more options: Tack on Saturday through Tuesday or Thursday through Sunday to the holiday, or just take the entire week off.

But consumers' confidence has been waning. Now, some aren't happy about having to burn an extra vacation day or two to get that long weekend. From 2008 through 2011, the work holiday fell on either Friday or Monday, so employees and their families got an automatic three-day weekend, similar to Memorial Day and Labor Day.

"It's irritating because everybody wants those three, four-day holiday weekends," said Tom Donohue, who runs an HIV awareness program based in Charlottesville, Va.

In recent years, he's traveled to see family in Pennsylvania, including his father whose birthday is on July 2. There's swimming and boating on the Susquehanna River and—of course—fireworks.

AP

In this Friday, June 29, 2012 photo, Walter Diaz, of Miami, checks-in at Miami International Airport in Miami.

Not this year. Donohue plans to stay local, savings those days off "for an actual vacation," a Caribbean cruise in October.

Others are determined to have their summer holiday no matter what.

Alicia Hutton, her husband and their two daughters are flying from Boston to Baltimore to see family. The parents had to take two extra days off from their jobs to make the Wednesday-Saturday trip work.

"It's not ideal because normally we would tack on one day to a long weekend," Hutton said. AAA, one of the nation's largest travel agencies, projects 42.3 million Americans will journey 50 miles or more from home between July 3 and July 8. That's roughly the same amount that traveled in 2007, the last time July Fourth fell on a Wednesday. Last year, when the holiday fell on a Monday, 40.3 million people traveled. But before you think it's a big increase, note that AAA's economists changed how they estimated the number of travelers: They used a six-day period this year compared to five last year.

"In general, we think that travel from last year is pretty flat," said Shane Norton, a director at IHS Global Insight, which provides economic forecasting and research for AAA.

The economy weighs heavily on families' travel plans. Consumer confidence has fallen for four straight months as Americans continue to worry about their jobs and retirement funds. The June reader of a widely followed confidence index was 62. A reading of 90 indicates a healthy economy.

That helps explain why families don't seem prepared yet to splurge on vacation. Many want to get away, but are opting for lower-priced hotels and are looking specifically for properties with free breakfast and Internet. Or they're choosing instead to stay with friends or relatives.

China court: Apple pays $60M to settle iPad case

BEIJING (AP)—Apple has agreed to pay a Chinese company $60 million to settle a dispute over ownership of the iPad name, a court announced Monday, removing a potential obstacle to sales of the popular tablet computer in the key Chinese market.

Apple Inc. says it bought the global rights to the iPad name from Shenzhen Proview Technology in 2009 but Chinese authorities say the rights in China were never transferred. A Chinese court ruled in December that Proview still owned the name in China and the company asked Chinese authorities to seize iPads.

"The iPad dispute resolution is ended," the Guangdong High People's Court said in a statement. "Apple Inc. has transferred $60 million to the account of the Guangdong High Court as requested in the mediation letter."

China is Apple's second-largest market after the United States and the source of much of the Cupertino, California-based company's sales growth.

Proview hoped for more money but felt pressure to settle because it needs to pay debts, said a lawyer for the company, Xie Xianghui. He said the company had hoped for as much as $400 million and might still be declared bankrupt in a separate legal proceeding despite the infusion of settlement money.

"This is a result that is acceptable to both sides," Xie said.

The dispute centered on whether Apple acquired the iPad name in China when it bought rights in various countries from a Proview affiliate in Taiwan for 35,000 British pounds ($55,000).

The December court ruling said Proview, which registered the iPad trademark in China in 2001, was not bound by that sale, even though it was part of the same company.

Shenzhen Proview Technology is a subsidiary of LCD screen maker Proview International Holdings Ltd., headquartered in Hong Kong.

Survey: Japan business confidence improves

TOKYO (AP)—Big manufacturers have more confidence in Japan's economy but remain pessimistic overall, a closely watched quarterly survey by the country's central bank showed Monday.

The "tankan" confidence index was minus 1, meaning Japan's big manufacturers are gloomy but are less so than in March, when the survey produced a minus 4 result.

The survey for the three months through June showed its first improvement in three quarters and was better than expected.

The Bank of Japan itself had forecast a minus 3 for the quarter. And experts had told Kyodo news agency they expected the index to remain at minus 4.

Japanese exporters have been cautious because of the Eurozone debt crisis and have been hurt by the strong yen and weaker growth in Asia. There are also strong concerns that a plan to double Japan's consumption tax to 10 percent over the next three years could stall growth.

But efforts to rebuild after last year's devastating earthquake and tsunami have created some opportunities for businesses, particularly in the construction and services sectors. Cheaper commodity costs were seen as also helping the index to gain ground. The survey forecast sentiment could strengthen further in the months ahead.

In the non-manufacturing sector, which includes construction companies, the index improved to plus 8, a 3-point gain.

The Bank of Japan surveyed 10,792 companies nationwide and about 99 percent responded.

The index is a percentage of the companies with a positive outlook versus those who see unfavorable conditions ahead, so a minus number means there are more pessimistic companies than optimistic ones.

Nation

Mid-Atlantic power outages could last days

A local resident tries to extinguish a wildfire in Carlet, near Valencia, Spain, Sunday, July 1, 2012. AP

FRANCONIA, Va. (AP)—A day after seeking refuge at shopping malls and movie theaters, hoping the lights would be back on when they returned, 3 million residents faced a grim reality Sunday: stifling homes, spoiled food and a looming commute filled with knocked-out stoplights.

Two days after storms tore across the eastern U.S., power outages were forcing people to get creative to stay cool in dangerously hot weather. Temperatures were forecast to top 100 degrees in many storm-stricken areas, and utility officials said the power will likely be out for several more days.

"If we don't get power tonight, we'll have to throw everything away," Susan Fritz, a mother of three, said grimly of her refrigerator and freezer. Fritz came to a library in Bethesda, Md., so her son could do school work. She charged her phone and iPad at her local gym.

The storm was blamed for 14 deaths, most from trees falling on homes and cars. Meanwhile, Coast Guard officials say they have suspended the search for a man who went missing early Saturday while boating during the storm off Maryland.

The bulk of the damage was in West Virginia, Washington and the capital's Virginia and Maryland suburbs. At least six of the dead were killed in Virginia, including a 90-year-old woman asleep in her bed when a tree slammed into her home. Two young cousins in New Jersey were killed when a tree fell on their tent while camping. Two were killed in Maryland, one in Ohio, one in Kentucky and one in Washington.

From Atlanta to Richmond, temperatures were expected to reach triple digits. With no air conditioning, officials urged residents to check on their elderly relatives and neighbors. It was tough to find a free pump at gas stations that did have power, and lines of cars snaked around fast-food drive-thrus.

States worked to make sure the power stayed on at water treatment plants so that people at least had clean water. Chain-saws buzzed throughout neighborhoods as utility crews scrambled to untangle downed trees and power lines. Neighbors banded together.

"Food, ice—we're all sharing," said 51-year-old Elizabeth Knight, who lives in the blue-collar Richmond suburb of Lakeside.

The Friday evening storms, a meteorological phenomenon known as a derecho, moved quickly across the region with little warning. The straight-line winds were just as destructive as any hurricane—but when a tropical system strikes, officials usually have several days to get extra personnel in place. Not so this time.

"Unlike a polite hurricane that gives you three days of warning, this storm gave us all the impact of a hurricane without any of the warning," Maryland Gov. Martin O'Malley said Sunday on CNN's "State of the Union."

Power crews from as far away as Florida and Oklahoma were on their way to the mid-Atlantic region to help get the power back on and the air conditioners running again. Even if people have generators, the gas-run devices often don't have enough power to operate an air conditioner.

And power restoration was spotty: Several people interviewed by The Associated Press said they remained without power even though the lights were on at neighbors' homes across the street. In Maryland, Gov. O'Malley promised that he would push utility companies to get electricity restored as quickly as possible.

'Unreal': Residents tour Colo. blaze devastation

COLORADO SPRINGS, Colo. (AP)—Melted bowling balls in the front yard were among the strange sights that met C.J. Moore upon her return Sunday to her two-story home, now reduced to ashes by the worst wildfire in Colorado history.

"You wouldn't think bowling balls would melt," she told The Associated Press by phone from the scene in her Mountain Shadows neighborhood, where she was among residents who were allowed temporary visits to areas most affected by the fire.

More than a week after it sparked on June 23, the Waldo Canyon fire was still being attacked by some 1,500 personnel. But crews working grueling shifts through the hot weekend made progress against the 26-square-mile fire, and authorities said they were confident they finally had built good fire lines in many areas to stop the spread of the flames.

So far, the blaze, now 45 percent contained, has damaged or destroyed nearly 350 homes.

It was just one of several still burning in the West, where parched conditions and searing heat contributed to the woes facing crews on hundreds of square miles across Utah, Montana, Wyoming and Idaho.

In Colorado Springs, a line of cars a mile long queued up at a middle school checkpoint, where police checked the identification of returning residents and handed them water bottles.

While searching for her great-grandmother's cast-iron skillets, Moore marveled at the juxtaposition of what burned and what hadn't. The bowling balls had been garden decorations.

"To find my mail in my mailbox, unscathed. It's just unreal. Unreal," she said. "Bird baths are fine. Some of the foliage is fine."

Three neighbors' homes were unscathed. Only concrete remained of other homes, including hers. Cars were burned to nothing but charred metal.

"Good Lord! I've never seen anything like this. And thank God there was nobody there. Thank God there were no people here. There would have been no been no hope.," Moore said.

Not far away, Bill Simmons and his wife, Debbie Byes, returned to their tri-level, passive-solar stucco home and found no damage—just some ashes in the driveway.

"The water and electric's back on. You know, we're good to go. We're feeling pretty happy about it at the moment," Simmons said by phone. "We're feeling pretty sad for our neighbors and pretty lucky for ourselves. It's been a real sobering experience."

Authorities said they would lift more evacuation orders Sunday night, bringing the total number of people who remain blocked from their homes down to 3,000 from more than 30,000 at the peak of the fire.

ACROSS THE NATION

Authorities say Arizona helicopter crash kills 4

CAMP VERDE, Ariz. (AP)—A private helicopter that crashed into an Arizona river killed all four people who were onboard, sheriff's officials said Sunday. The crash in the remote area likely took place Saturday during a flight from Sedona to Scottsdale, the Yavapai County Sheriff's Office said in a statement. Search crews with the Civil Air Patrol started looking for the Aerospatiale AS350 helicopter on Saturday when it was reported overdue, Federal Aviation Administration spokesman Ian Gregor said. The wreckage was spotted around 8:45 a.m. Sunday by a private pilot south of Camp Verde, Gregor said.

Scouts from fire-ravaged town die in Wyo. crash

Five people died when a vehicle returning to Colorado from a Boy Scout camp in Wyoming slammed into a motor home, authorities said Sunday. Among the victims were three Scouts and their adult troop leader, all from Woodland Park, Colo., a town ravaged in recent weeks by wildfires, the Colorado Springs Gazette reported. A 3-year-old passenger in the motor home also died, the Wyoming Highway Patrol said. The Woodland Park School District says 16-year-old Paul Kekich, 17-year-old Nick Naples, and 17-year-old Alex Ragan died in Saturday's crash, according to the newspaper. The boys were students at Woodland Park High School. Their leader, Richard Kleiner, also died. ***(AP)***

Official: Police think they found a human head

TORONTO (AP)—Police found what appears to be a human head in a park in Montreal and are investigating whether it is the missing head of a Chinese student who they say was dismembered by a Canadian porn actor, an official said Sunday. A police official said it appears to be a human head. Luka Magnotta is accused of dismembering his lover Jun Lin and mailing the body parts to political parties and schools. He pleaded not guilty last month. Lin's head is the only remaining body part unaccounted for. Montreal police spokesperson Anie Lemieux said investigators made their way to Park Angrignon on Sunday afternoon after the major crimes unit received a tip.

Fort Bragg soldier who shot commander dies

FORT BRAGG, N.C. (AP)—A soldier who shot and killed his superior officer at Fort Bragg and then turned the gun on himself is also dead, military officials said Sunday. The Army said in a news release that 27-year-old Spc. Ricky G. Elder of Hutchinson, Kan., died Friday after undergoing treatment at Cape Fear Valley Medical Center in Fayetteville, N.C. The statement from Fort Bragg said Elder, an infantryman, had been charged recently with larceny of a toolkit valued at $1,700 and had been awaiting court martial at the time of the shootings. His trial had not been scheduled.

Asia

Guinness: Philippine crocodile is largest in captivity

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Guinness World Records has declared that a huge crocodile blamed for deadly attacks in the southern Philippines is the largest in captivity in the world. The giant reptile has brought pride, fear, tourism revenues and attention to the remote town where it was captured.

The saltwater crocodile named Lolong, which was captured last September in Bunawan town in Agusan del Sur province, measures 20.24 feet (6.17 meters) and weighs more than a ton, Guinness spokeswoman Anne-Lise Rouse said in a statement seen Sunday. The reptile took the top spot from an Australian crocodile which measured more than 17 feet (5 meters) and weighed nearly a ton.

Bunawan Mayor Edwin Cox Elorde said the news sparked celebrations in his farming town of 37,000 but also fostered concerns that more giant crocodiles might be lurking in a nearby marshland and creek where villagers fish.

"There were mixed feelings," Elorde said by telephone. "We're really proud because it proves the rich biodiversity of our place but at the same time, there are fears that Lolong may not be alone."

Lolong has become the star attraction of a new ecotourism park and research center in the outskirts of Bunawan and has drawn thousands of tourists since news of its capture spread. Elorde said his town has earned 3 million pesos ($72,000) from the modest entrance fees at the park, with most of the money being used to feed and care for the crocodile and for park maintenance.

Environment and Natural Resources Secretary Ramon Paje welcomed the Guinness announcement and the growing attention being given to the crocodile, saying it would help people realize the biodiversity of their surroundings and the need to protect it. He said he would recommend that the government help Bunawan become an ecotourism destination.

The crocodile was captured with steel cable traps during a three-week hunt after a child was killed in 2009 and a fisherman went missing. Water buffalos have also been attacked by crocodiles in the area, officials said.

About 100 people led by Elorde pulled the crocodile from a creek using a rope and then hoisted it by crane onto a truck. It was named after a government environmental officer who died from a heart attack after traveling to Bunawan to help capture the beast, Elorde said.

Elorde said he saw a bigger crocodile escape when Lolong was captured and villagers remain wary of fishing there at night. He said he has formed a new team of hunters and is seeking government permission to start hunting that crocodile.

AP

In this Sunday, Sept. 4, 2011 file photo, Bunawan Mayor Edwin Cox Elorde pretends to measure a huge crocodile which was captured by residents and crocodile farm staff along a creek in Bunawan in Bunawan town in Agusan del Sur province, southern Philippines.

1st Japan reactor goes online since nuclear crisis

TOKYO (AP)—Dozens of protesters shouted and danced at the gate of a nuclear power plant as it restarted Sunday, the first to go back online since Japan shut down all of its reactors for safety checks following the Fukushima nuclear disaster.

Ohi nuclear plant's reactor No. 3 returned to operation despite a deep division in public opinion. Last month, Prime Minister Yoshihiko Noda ordered the restarts of reactors No. 3 and nearby No. 4, saying people's living standards can't be maintained without nuclear energy. Many citizens are against a return to nuclear power because of safety fears after the Fukushima accident.

Crowds of tens of thousands of people have gathered on Friday evenings around Noda's official residence, chanting, "Saikado hantai," or "No to nuclear restarts." Protests drawing such numbers are extremely rare in this nation, often known for orderly conformity. A demonstration in Tokyo protesting the restart and demanding Noda resign was planned in a major park Sunday.

Although initially ignored by mainstream local media, demonstrations across the country have grown as word spread through social media, sometimes drawing Japanese celebrities including Nobel Prize-winning writer Kenzaburo Oe and Ryuichi Sakamoto, who composed the score for the movie "The Last Emperor."

All 50 of Japan's working reactors were gradually turned off in the wake of last year's massive earthquake and tsunami, which sent the Fukushima Dai-ichi plant into multiple meltdowns, setting off the worst nuclear disaster since Chernobyl.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Manila, rebels optimistic of peace pact this year

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—The Philippine government and the country's largest Muslim rebel group say they are optimistic they can forge a peace agreement this year despite differences over how to peacefully settle the decades-long insurrection. Presidential adviser Teresita Deles said Sunday government negotiators and the 11,000-strong Moro Islamic Liberation Front were taking steps to resolve key differences, including the extent of power to be given to a Muslim autonomous region in the south. Deles spoke on the sidelines of a welcoming ceremony for 15 Indonesian army soldiers and civilian conflict-resolution experts who arrived in Manila to join an international contingent safeguarding a cease-fire between Philippine troops and the rebels. Rebel negotiator Mohagher Iqbal says he shares Deles's optimism. He says the Indonesian truce monitors can help create an atmosphere conducive to peace talks.

Okinawa governor rejects plan to deploy US planes

TOKYO (AP)—The governor of the southern Japanese island of Okinawa is opposing a plan to deploy U.S. Osprey aircraft there following recent crashes. Okinawa Gov. Hirokazu Nakaima told Defense Minister Satoshi Morimoto in a meeting Sunday he could not accept the U.S. plan to deploy the new aircraft, which combine airplane-like wings with rotors that allow it to take off and land like a helicopter. A crash in April killed two Marines, and another last month injured five airmen. The Pentagon says officials will brief Japan on the two crashes, including an initial finding that the April accident was not caused by mechanical failure.

Flood death toll rises to 62 in India's northeast

GAUHATI, India (AP)—The death toll from monsoon rains in northeastern India has risen above 60, with more than 2,000 villages inundated as rivers breached their banks, an official said Sunday. More than a week of heavy rains in Assam state has caused the massive Brahmaputra river—one of Asia's largest—to exceed danger levels. Smaller rivers have also overflown their banks. Floods and landslides have killed 62 people, Assam's agriculture minister Nilomoni Sen Deka said. Deka said the disaster has affected about 2 million people.

China says preparations on track for party meeting

BEIJING (AP)—China said Sunday that preparations are going smoothly for a major Communist Party meeting at which the country's top leaders will be changed, even though the once-a-decade transformation has been overshadowed by a political scandal. An editorial in the party newspaper, the People's Daily, said arrangements for the party congress are under way. "The preparation work for the 18th party congress is being carried out smoothly," it said. "The party and the people from all ethnic groups welcome the 18th party congress with full confidence." The editorial marked the 91st anniversary of the founding of the Chinese Communist Party.

Hong Kong holds big protest as new leader sworn in

HONG KONG (AP)—A pro-democracy heckler interrupted a speech by Chinese President Hu Jintao at the swearing-in of Hong Kong's new leader Sunday and tens of thousands of residents marched to protest Chinese rule on the 15th anniversary of the Asian financial hub's return to Beijing's control.

The outpouring of discontent underscored rising tensions between the Communist mainland and the vibrant city of 7 million that was returned to China in 1997 after more than a century of British colonial rule. While much of the discontent revolves around growing economic inequality and stunted democratic development, Hong Kongers are also upset over what they see as arrogant Chinese behavior—wealthy mainlanders taking over retail outlets during flashy Hong Kong shopping trips, for example, or even the choice of language during Sunday's swearing-in ceremony, Beijing-accented Mandarin instead of the Cantonese dialect spoken locally.

In the ceremony, self-made millionaire Leung Chun-ying, 57, became Hong Kong's third chief executive after Donald Tsang and Tung Chee-hwa. He has promised to address Hong Kongers' economic needs, including skyrocketing housing prices, which many blame on deep-pocketed mainland apartment buyers.

A demonstrator who tried to interrupt Hu as he began his address was bundled away by security officials. The man, one of the guests invited to the inauguration, waved a small flag and yelled slogans calling for China's leaders to condemn the brutal June 4, 1989, crackdown on protesters in Beijing's Tiananmen Square. He also called for an end to one-party rule in China. Hu took no notice and continued to read his speech, but the incident marred what was supposed to be a carefully orchestrated visit emphasizing strengthened ties between Hong Kong and mainland China.

Leung, a police officer's son, replaces career bureaucrat Tsang, who took office in 2005 and is barred from another term.

Leung was chosen as chief executive in March, winning 689 votes from a 1,200-seat committee of business elites who mostly voted according to Beijing's wishes. Hong Kong's 3.4 million registered voters, who can vote for neighborhood councilors and half of all lawmakers, had no say.

In mid-afternoon, tens of thousands of protesters began marching toward the newly built government headquarters complex on Hong Kong Island in sweltering heat, beating drums and waving British colonial flags in a gesture of nostalgia for an era during which democratic rights were limited but the rule of law was firmly in place.

The protesters jammed the route of the march, a series of thoroughfares bordered by high-rise apartments and office buildings. There was occasional tension with the thousands of police officers deployed to maintain order, but by and large the event went off peacefully.

Organizers said more than 400,000 participated while police estimated there were 63,000 at the procession's peak. Hu left Hong Kong before the march began.

World

Kenya police: church attacks kill 15, wound 40

NAIROBI, Kenya (AP)—Gunmen killed two policemen guarding a church, snatched their rifles and then opened fire on the congregation from inside and out on Sunday, killing 15 people and wounding 40, security officials said.

Two gunmen entered the simple wooden church in the city of Garissa at around 10:15 a.m. Sunday, while two others waited outside, police commander Philip Ndolo said. When the congregation fled the attack inside, they ran straight into another hail of bullets from gunmen outside, he said. At least one grenade was detonated in the attack.

Overturned wooden benches littered the church afterward. A victim wearing a simple blue dress lay on the sandy earth outside. Witnesses reported seeing the four gunmen flee in dark blue outfits and masks.

"We were deep in prayers preparing to give our offerings," said a visibly shaken David Mwange, a churchgoer. "We first had a loud bang from outside which we mistook to be coming from the rooftops. We then had gun shots which made us to lie down. Within no time we had gunshots all over. Everybody was shouting and wailing in pain."

AP

An armed Kenyan policeman walks inside the African Inland Church, as a body of one of those killed in the attack lies on the ground underneath church pews, in Garissa, Kenya Sunday, July 1, 2012.

The bloodiest of the two attacks came against the African Inland Church in Garissa, a city some 195 kilometers (120 miles) west of the Somali border. Ndolo said 15 people were killed and at least 40 wounded. A grenade attack against a second church in Garissa wounded three people.

Garissa Mayor Ismail Garat called the church assault "evil."

"We are not used to witnessing such kinds of acts in our country, where people are just shot in broad daylight. We really want to know who the heartless people who did this are," he said.

Ndolo told reporters he wanted an investigation carried out before assigning blame to the group many people in this region assume is at fault: al-Shabab, the most dangerous militant group in Somalia.

Another security official said two attackers walked up to the two policemen guarding the church, shot them at point-blank range and took their rifles. The official spoke only on condition he wasn't identified because he is not allowed to speak to media.

The police were guarding the church because of the increasingly dangerous security situation near the border with Somalia and because Somalia's Islamist militants have made Christian churches a common target.

The Vatican spokesman condemned the "vile" and "disgraceful" attacks and said they showed the necessity of defending the rights of Christians to celebrate their faith and "oppose irresponsible acts that fuel hatred among religions."

Syrian opposition rejects new plan

BEIRUT (AP)—Syria's main opposition groups rejected on Sunday a new international plan that calls for a transitional government because the compromise agreement did not bar President Bashar Assad from participating.

Their reaction held out little hope for an end to more than 15 months of carnage on a day when the main opposition group said 800 people were killed in violence in the past week alone.

Opposition activists groups say more than 14,000 people have been killed since the uprising against President Bashar Assad's authoritarian rule began in March 2011, or on average about 900 a month. That would make last week's toll alone almost as high as the monthly average as government forces furiously pounded rebellious towns and cities with helicopters, tanks and artillery in an offensive aimed at recovering rebel-held territories.

World powers at a conference in Geneva on Saturday accepted a U.N.-brokered plan calling for creation of a transitional national unity government with full executive powers in Syria. But at Russia's insistence, the compromise agreement left the door open to Assad being part of the interim administration. It could also include members of Assad's government and the opposition and other groups. The transitional government would oversee the drafting of a new constitution and elections.

However Syria's fragmented opposition has long opposed any solution that involved negotiating with Assad or allowing him to cling to power.

Bassma Kodmani, a Paris-based spokeswoman for the main opposition group, the Syrian National Council (SNC), said the agreement is "ambiguous" and lacks a mechanism or timetable for implementation. She said there were some positive elements in the plan, which implies that all members of the Security Council were in agreement that the transition period must not be led by Assad. But she said this needs to be more explicit.

"We cannot say that there is any positive outcome today," Kodmani said.

The regime did not react to the plan. But Assad has repeatedly said his government has a responsibility to eliminate terrorists—his term for those fighting the regime—and will not accept any non-Syrian model of governance.

Fayez Sayegh, a prominent lawmaker and member of the ruling Baath party, expressed satisfaction at the outcome of the conference, saying participants left it up to the Syrian people to decide their fate and form of governance.

"The conference ... did not discuss matters that have to do with the president as Western countries would have wished," Sayegh told The Associated Press.

The need for a solution to the Syrian crisis is growing more urgent by the day with the sharp escalation in violence and deaths and the conflict threatening to spill across borders. Syria shot down a warplane from neighboring Turkey on June 22 and Turkey responded by setting up anti-aircraft guns along the frontier. Turkey said Sunday it scrambled fighter jets to its border after Syrian helicopters flew too close to the frontier.

But any hopes for a quick breakthrough were dashed by the opposition's rejection to the brand new initiative, likely relegating it to the latest in a series of failures by the international community to unify and stop Assad's crackdown on dissent.

At the Geneva conference, the U.S. backed away from insisting that the plan should explicitly bar Assad from any role in a new government, hoping the concession would encourage Russia to put greater pressure on its long-time ally to end the violence.

U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton insisted on Saturday that Assad would still have to go and France's foreign minister echoed the demand on Sunday.

It is now "incumbent on Russia and China to show Assad the writing on the wall" and help force his departure," Clinton said, addressing the two countries that have shielded Assad's regime from U.N. Security Council resolutions condemning the crackdown.

Palfrey ends Cuba-Florida swim amid strong current

AP

British-Australian swimmer Penny Palfrey begins her bid to complete a record swim from Cuba to Florida, in Havana, Cuba, Friday, June 29, 2012.

KEY WEST, Fla. (AP)—A 49-year-old grandmother and veteran endurance swimmer scuttled her quest early Sunday to become the first woman to swim unaided from Cuba to the Florida Keys, unable to close the gap on the last 26 miles of a more than 100-mile ocean odyssey.

Penny Palfrey had fended off painful jellyfish stings while keeping an eye on hammerhead sharks as she attempted the crossing without a shark cage. But her support team said the tricky currents of the Florida Straits proved to be her biggest obstacle, pushing her east so that she ended up losing ground just as she was achingly close to her goal, her husband Chris Palfrey said.

All told, the British-born Australian athlete had been swimming nearly 41 hours since plunging into balmy waters near Havana, Cuba, on Friday to start out. She was about three-quarters of the way into her swim when she gave up the effort about midnight, just 26 miles south of Florida's Key West.

Palfrey treaded water as the crew briefed her on the currents and she ultimately made the decision to end the swim.

"Penny has been 100 percent focused on this swim for a year, so she was quite a bit upset. There were of course some tears. She didn't know what was happening until we told her, so it took a few minutes while she took that in," her husband said during a news conference in Key West.

She was hospitalized Sunday, receiving IV drips and pain medication. Painful blisters and ulcers under her tongue made it difficult to talk. Her husband said it was too early to discuss the possibility of another attempt.

Her doctor said she was dehydrated and had low blood pressure, but remarked her blood work was fairly normal considering the swim.

"She was still strong, but 41 hours of continuous swimming ... she was physically exhausted," Chris Palfrey said. "It was really only her mental focus that was keeping her going. She was going really, really well but she only had a few more hours in her."

Focus

More nuanced view of Roberts after health care law

WASHINGTON (AP)—Chief Justice John Roberts could have taken down the entire, massive health care law that his fellow Republicans deride as "Obamacare." He could have prevented the Supreme Court decision that largely disabled the most disputed aspects of Arizona's crackdown on illegal immigrants.

He didn't do either, and in the process surprised (or dismayed) longtime court observers of every political stripe.

Those two outcomes in the finals days of his seventh year on the court offer some clues for reassessing what kind of chief justice Roberts is and intends to be. Is he no longer the rock-ribbed conservative loved by supporters and jeered by opponents? Has he become a pragmatic leader mindful of the court's place in history? Is he more canny, but still solidly conservative?

The measure of a justice is best taken after decades of service, rather than a few years. At age 57, Roberts could lead the court for another quarter-century.

But at the very least, the end of the Roberts Court's most consequential term already is leading to revised, and in some cases more nuanced, appraisals of his leadership.

Erwin Chemerinsky, a liberal scholar who is dean of the law school at the University of California at Irvine, announced that the era of the Roberts Court had begun. "He authored the opinion in the most important case in his seven years on the court, and did so against what was expected," Chemerinsky said.

In truth, Roberts' vote to uphold President Barack Obama's health care law was not so much a surprise.

He long had been counted among the possible votes to uphold the law. But it was widely assumed that if Roberts ultimately voted for it, so too would Anthony Kennedy, most often the decisive vote in closely fought cases. It was only the second time in his tenure that Roberts provided the deciding vote for the side favored by the court's liberals.

Up until now, it had been the Kennedy Court, Chemerinsky said, "This year, it was the Roberts Court."

Had Roberts gone the other way, the court would have wiped away the entire health care overhaul, which is the outcome embraced by dissenting Justices Samuel Alito, Antonin Scalia, Clarence Thomas and Kennedy.

Instead, he said the individual insurance requirement at the heart of the law could be upheld as a tax. At the same time, he rejected administration arguments that the mandate was justified by the Constitution's clause giving Congress power over interstate commerce, which has been the authority for most federal programs since the New Deal.

Some legal scholars suggest Roberts produced an essentially conservative opinion with a liberal outcome.

Neal Katyal, the former acting solicitor general who argued the Obama administration's side in the health care cases in several appeals courts, said that Roberts' majority opinion opened the door to potentially important changes in the law that could restrict federal power as it has been understood since the New Deal.

Ilya Somin, a George Mason University law professor, said on the Volokh Conspiracy legal blog that the health care case "gives supporters of limits on federal power some useful ammunition, despite also dealing us a painful defeat."

Roberts

In addition, Roberts' ruling has helped refocus the public debate over the law and gave Republican opponents ammunition for calling it a big tax increase they would try to repeal.

Just three days earlier, Roberts, joined by Kennedy this time, sided with three liberal justices in the Arizona immigration case. Justice Elena Kagan, one of the court's liberals, did not take part because of her previous involvement as solicitor general, when she was the Obama administration's top Supreme Court lawyer.

Roberts joined in every word of Kennedy's majority opinion that struck down three contentious provisions of the law, but allowed one to go forward—the requirement that police check the immigration status of people they stop for other reasons.

Roberts could have sided with the conservatives who favored allowing other provisions to take effect, but that would have left the court divided 4-4, a distasteful outcome because it amounts to a waste of the justices' time.

What's more, Roberts might have reasoned that Kagan probably would side with the other liberal justices and Kennedy in some future immigration case over similar state laws that she could take part in. Such a case down the road probably would produce an outcome similar to what the court achieved last week in the Arizona case. But if Roberts stuck with the conservative justices, that scenario would have deprived him of a chance to try to influence the majority opinion.

Yet as the court followed its usual practice of issuing a torrent of opinions just days before the justices scatter for the summer, Roberts did not exactly abandon his frequent allies on the right.

He wrote a sharp dissent from Kagan's majority opinion barring mandatory sentences of life without possibility of parole for people younger than 18. The chief justice and the other conservatives rebuffed pleas from supporters of campaign spending limits and from liberal justices to take a fresh look at the 2-year-old Citizens United decision, perhaps the most politically unpopular decision of Roberts' tenure.

Post-ruling prognosis

In largely upholding President Barack Obama's health care law, the U.S. Supreme Court provided much-needed clarity to consumers, insurers, states and others. While some provisions of the law have gone into effect, many of the most significant ones — including a requirement that almost all Americans have health insurance — won't kick in until 2014. Here's a look at where things stand:

Consumers

What's already in effect

• Provisions that bar insurers from imposing lifetime limits and from canceling coverage if consumers make technical errors on insurance applications

• Young adults can stay on their parents' health plans until age 26, and children with pre-existing medical conditions cannot be denied coverage

• Seniors are getting preventive services without having to pay copayments or deductibles, and many are saving money on prescription drug bills due to the phasing out of a coverage gap known as the "doughnut hole"; the gap will be gone by 2020

What's coming in 2014

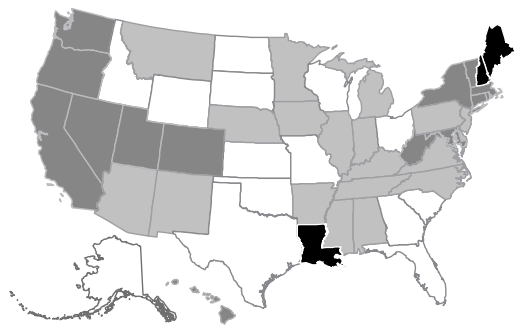
• Adults with pre-existing conditions will be guaranteed coverage and won't have to pay higher rates than healthier people, and annual dollar limits (caps) on essential services will be banned

• State-based insurance exchanges will offer a way to comparison shop for health policies that meet minimum government standards

Status of state action on creating exchanges

As of June 18

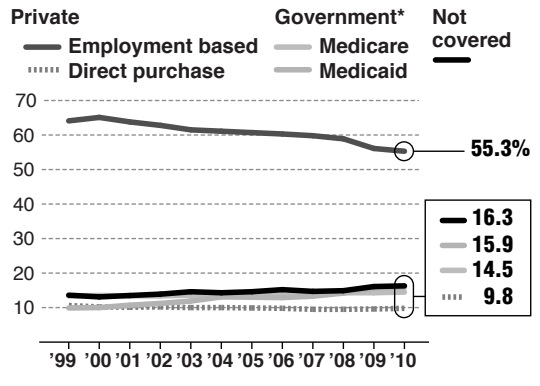
- Have established an exchange
- Studying options/ planning an exchange
- No significant activity
- Chose not to create an exchange



• The government will subsidize these purchases for low-income people; individuals who don't get insurance will be required to pay a penalty of at least $95 in 2015, $695 in 2017

Trend in source of insurance

As of March 2010



*May have additional private insurance

Insurers

• The law already requires insurers to spend at least 80 percent of insurance premiums on medical care or to refund the difference to customers

• Individuals and businesses could receive as much as $1.3 billion in refunds for 2011

Estimated rebates paid by insurers in 2012

Insurance market	Rebate, in millions	Enrollment, in millions	Average rebate per enrollee
Individual	$426.2	3.4	$126.81
Small group	$376.7	4.9	$76.37
Large group	$540.7	7.5	$72.31

• Managed-care companies are likely to benefit from a big expansion of Medicaid as more states ask these insurers to handle their Medicaid programs

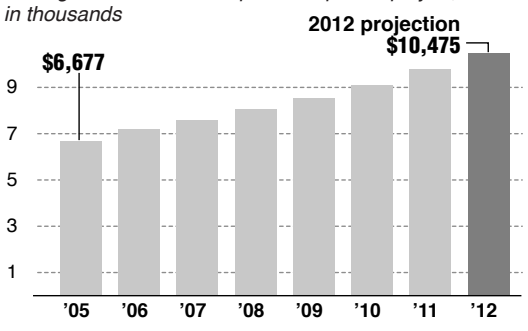
Employers

• Starting in 2014, firms with 50 or more employees will be required to offer health insurance or pay a tax; the penalty is low enough that some employers might drop their insurance plans and pay the tax

• Companies with fewer than 50 employees will not be required to offer insurance, but those that do can already receive a tax credit of up to 35 percent of the amount they contribute to employees' premiums; by 2014, the credit will increase to 50 percent of the employer's contribution

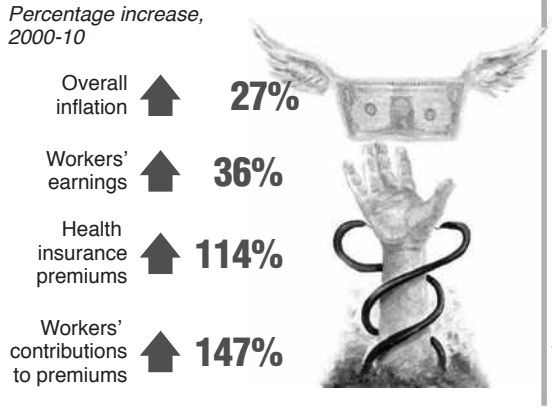
Large company insurance costs

Average total health care premium per employee, in thousands

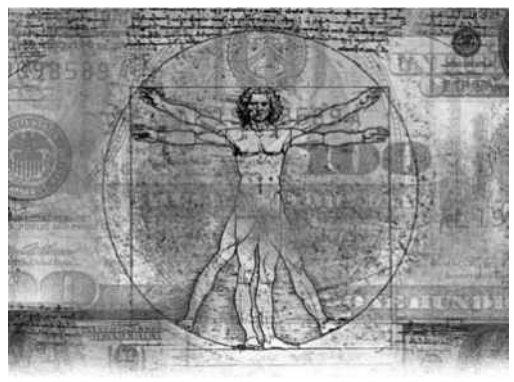


Workers' health insurance costs vs. wages

Percentage increase, 2000-10



Doctors and hospitals



• Already, doctors and nurses who work in underserved areas get perks, such a scholarship funding and loan repayments; starting in 2015, doctors will be paid higher rates for providing better care

• Hospitals are a big winner; since millions more people will have health insurance, hospitals will get paid for the care they provide to the previously uninsured

• Starting in October, hospitals will be able to get payment incentives based on the quality of their care; next year, hospitals and providers will start getting bundled payments for delivering integrated care to Medicare patients

• The law's survival means the transition to electronic records by doctors and hospitals is likely to accelerate

The states

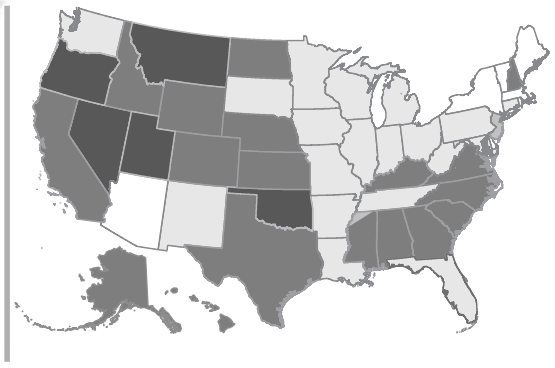
• The court upheld the provision that will provide coverage to millions more poor Americans by extending Medicaid eligibility to those with household incomes of 138 percent of the federal poverty line

• But the court ruled that the states can't be penalized for refusing to take part in the Medicaid expansion, which could result in states like California and Massachusetts embracing the expansion while others, like Florida and Texas, might balk, leaving poor residents in those states without any coverage

Projected enrollment in Medicaid, 2014-19

Under the original Medicaid expansion plan

- 20% or less
- 20.1-35% or less
- 35.1-50% or less
- More than 50%



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Aon Corp., Kaiser Family Foundation, Congressional Budget Office, MCT Illustrations, Kim Geiger, Tribune Washington Bureau

Graphic: Chicago Tribune

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Overdrive

Ford Shelby GT500 can stand up to supercars

The 2013 Ford Shelby GT500 is the last Mustang sanctified by late automotive legend Carroll Shelby. MCT

By MARK PHELAN
DETROIT FREE PRESS

The last Shelby performance car sanctified by the late Carroll Shelby, the 2013 Ford Shelby GT500 convertible is the fastest, most expensive and by far best Mustang from the maestro's decades of work with Ford.

It also redefines the American pony car as a vehicle whose technology and power can compare to elite super cars for a fraction of the cost.

The Shelby's window-rattling 662 horsepower is just the start. It brings a new level of technology to a car that critics dismissed for decades as more brawn than brains.

The 2013 Shelby GT500 has sophisticated launch control, multi-mode stability control, adjustable Bilstein shocks and more. Its supercharged 5.8-liter V-8 engine generates more power than the 6.2-liter twin-turbo 12-cylinder engine in a Bentley Supersports convertible.

The Bentley's claim to being the world's fastest four-passenger convertible is probably fluttering somewhere in the Shelby GT500's wake. At a minimum, the sub 4-second zero-60 mph time and 200-mph-plus top speed Ford claims are both close enough to make the $280,000-plus Bentley sweat.

All 2013 Shelby GT500 Mustangs come with the 662-horsepower, 631-pound-feet of torque supercharged 5.8-liter V-8 and a six-speed manual transmission. A new one-piece carbon-fiber driveshaft transmits the engine's power to the rear wheels.

NUTS & BOLTS

Type of vehicle: Rear-wheel drive high-performance four-passenger coupe
Rating: Four out of four stars
Reasons to buy: Performance, looks, legend
Shortcomings: Interior storage, poorly fitted trunk liner, no memory for driver's settings, shifter feel
Wheelbase: 107.1 inches
Length: 188.2 inches
Width: 73.9 inches
Height: 55.1 inches
Curb weight: 2,970 pounds
Base price, base model: $54,200
Base price, test model: $59,200
Price as tested: $62,695
All prices exclude destination charges.

Prices start at $54,200 for the coupe and $59,200 for the convertible.

I tested a well-equipped Shelby GT500 convertible with voice-recognition Bluetooth phone and audio, blind-spot alert, a Torsen limited-slip differential and more. It stickered at $62,695. All prices exclude destination charges.

Performance notwithstanding, the Shelby doesn't really compete with the ultra-luxury Bentley Supersports. Its main target is the new 580-horsepower Chevrolet Camaro ZL1.

Other cars a Shelby driver might deign to race include the Audi S5 convertible, BMW M3 convertible, Dodge Challenger SRT8 392 coupe and Mercedes-Benz C 63 AMG coupe.

None of them match the Shelby's output. Only the Camaro ZL1 comes within 100 horsepower. Amazingly, all but the 333-horsepower V-6 Audi S5 also trail the Shelby's fuel economy.

The EPA rates Shelby at 15 mpg in the city, 24 on the highway and 18 combined. It escapes the federal gas-guzzler tax levied on the ZL1 and most similarly powerful cars.

Despite all that, the Shelby isn't perfect. Most of its failings will be familiar to anyone who knows the current Mustang—limited interior storage, poor rear visibility when backing up and no memory for the driver's settings.

The Shelby GT500 adds a few flaws to that list. The trunk liner of the car I tested fit very poorly.

The interior had leather seats, but many hard surfaces, including the top of the doors and dashboard.

The shifter was notchy, notably less smooth than the ZL1. Leg-wearying clutch effort recalled the days when powerful engines required massive clutch springs.

Rev the engine and drop the clutch, and the Shelby leaves those quibbles in the dust.

The engine roars as acceleration presses you back and won't let go.

The suspension keeps the Shelby level whether you've got the gas pedal or brake floored. Its normal setting cushions bumps for a comfortable ride.

The Goodyear tires adhere to curves as if they were molten. A "track mode" display includes an accelerometer that shows how many G's the car pulls in turns, acceleration and braking.

The electric power steering's sport and comfort settings are noticeably different. I found sport fine for all driving.

In addition to several settings for stability and traction control that allow anything from mild burnouts to closed-course racing, the Shelby offers launch control.

Launch control uses some of the same engine and brake controls as traction and stability control, but while those systems reduce power and speed, launch control holds the tires to the very edge of adhesion for maximum acceleration without any wheel spin.

The Shelby's system allows the kind of race-winning acceleration from a stop once attainable only by supremely skilled drivers.

The visually dramatic Shelby has low-profile 19-inch front and 20-inch rear wheels.

The front air intake is massive and deep, a black maw behind the bumper that gulps air to cool the engine. The powerful Brembo brakes' 15-inch front discs are as big as the base wheels on a Ford Fiesta subcompact.

This combination of classic style and advanced performance technology is a fitting tribute to Carroll Shelby, who helped Ford develop the first performance Mustangs in 1965 and unveiled the automaker's latest and greatest pony car to a roar of engines and loud applause in a theater in Los Angeles last November.

Mark Phelan is the auto critic for the Detroit Free Press*. He can be reached at mmphelan@freepress.com.*

Don't let A/C cause marital friction

BY PAUL BRAND
STAR TRIBUNE (MINNEAPOLIS)

QUESTION: Is it possible for an air-conditioning compressor to go bad so quickly? Our daughter bought a 2007 Nissan Altima with 72,000 miles last August from a dealership, and now the A/C doesn't work. She was told the compressor is dead. She'll get a second opinion, but I'm also wondering what your opinion might be.

Secondly, my husband drives a 2000 Jeep with 180,000 miles on it. A mechanic told him that to "save the life of his A/C" he should use the recirculate button. He said the A/C unit won't work as hard or cycle as much, and that'll keep him from having to deal with a similar problem that my daughter has. But I find it irritating because recirculated air gets stale and doesn't cool as efficiently in his car. I use the recirculate button only when we're following a stinky bus or truck. I can't seem to influence him on this, and if the A/C does die, he'll blame it on not using the recirculate button, so it's a no-win situation. What's the real story?

ANSWER: A marriage issue, perhaps? The Jeep is his vehicle, so why not let him operate it as he chooses? The recirculate button, by closing off outside air intake to the system, allows the system to cool more quickly and efficiently, particularly in high temperature-high humidity conditions. I'm not sure this would be a significant factor in compressor life, but it certainly won't damage anything.

The problem with your daughter's Nissan may not be the compressor itself. It may be the compressor clutch, engine management system or HVAC control module not signaling the compressor to engage. Most compressors that fail tend to make nasty noises when engaged, but low refrigerant pressure would prevent the system from allowing the compressor to engage.

■ ■ ■

Q: I own a 1994 Ford Thunderbird with a V-8 engine with automatic transmission and 146,000 miles. When the weather is hot, my car downshifts randomly either one or two gears momentarily and then upshifts back to overdrive. I can go months without a problem and then it can occur multiple times in the same day. There are no slippage problems with the transmission. Would you suspect an electronic problem?

A: Ask yourself this question: What operational parameters would mandate a downshift? Factors would include a higher throttle setting, lower manifold vacuum, change in vehicle speed or a transmission in "limp mode." Check the sensors and electronics that communicate these parameters: throttle position sensor for a dead spot, manifold absolute pressure sensor for connections, contamination or intake air leaks, vehicle speed sensor for intermittent or inconsistent signal. If the transmission temperature sensor signals fluid overheating, the transmission will downshift into its limp mode.

If no electronic problems are identified, worn valve body or clutch components inside the transmission are a possibility.

■ ■ ■

Q: I drive a four-cylinder 2008 Chevy Malibu with 31,000 miles on it. The car has a slow-speed miss. It does it when you are between 10 and 30 miles per hour. It does not do it above 30 mph. I've had it to the dealer twice for repair, but they cannot find the trouble.

A: With the sophisticated engine and transmission management systems on modern vehicles, I'm surprised the dealer did not find any diagnostic fault codes. Any consistent misfire should trigger and store a code.

My Alldata automotive database pulled up service bulletin 03-06-04-030G, dated April 2009, dealing with injector deposits and describing GM's fuel injector cleaning and testing procedure in detail.

Here's an idea. Find a shop with a chassis dynamometer and run the car in gear while it's connected to an electronic engine analyzer. If they can duplicate the scenario and experience the misfire, the analyzer should pinpoint which cylinder and the probable cause.

And don't overlook the possibility of the transmission torque converter clutch slipping, creating a slight shudder similar to a misfire.

Paul Brand, author of How to Repair Your Car*, is an automotive troubleshooter, driving instructor and former race-car driver. Readers may write to him at: Star Tribune, 425 Portland Ave. S., Minneapolis, Minn. 55488 or via email at paulbrand@startribune.com. Please explain the problem in detail and include a daytime phone number. Because of the volume of mail, we cannot provide personal replies.*

Life & Style

Early full-term babies may face later school woes

CHICAGO (AP)—Even for infants born full-term, a little more time in the womb may matter.

The extra time results in more brain development, and a study suggests perhaps better scores on academic tests, too.

Full-term is generally between 37 weeks and 41 weeks; newborns born before 37 weeks are called premature and are known to face increased chances for health and developmental problems.

The children in the study were all full-term, and the vast majority did fine on third-grade math and reading tests. The differences were small, but the study found that more kids born at 37 or 38 weeks did poorly than did kids born even a week or two later.

The researchers and other experts said the results suggest that the definition of prematurity should be reconsidered.

The findings also raise questions about hastening childbirth by scheduling cesarean deliveries for convenience—because women are tired of being pregnant or doctors are busy—rather than for medical reasons, the researchers say.

Women should "at least proceed with caution before electing to have an earlier term birth," said lead author Dr. Kimberly Noble, an assistant pediatrics professor at Columbia University Medical Center.

The study involved 128,000 New York City public school children and included a sizable number of kids from disadvantaged families. But the authors said similar results likely would be found in other children, too.

Of the children born at 37 weeks, 2.3 percent had severely poor reading skills and 1.1 percent had at least moderate problems in math. That compares to 1.8 percent and 0.9 percent for the children born at 41 weeks.

Children born at 38 weeks faced only slightly lower risks than those born at 37 weeks.

Compared with 41-weekers, children born at 37 weeks faced a 33 percent increased chance of having severe reading difficulty in third grade, and a 19 percent greater chance of having moderate problems in math.

"These outcomes are critical and predict future academic achievement," said Naomi Breslau, a Michigan State University professor and sociologist. Her own research has linked lower IQs in 6-year-olds born weighing the same as the average birth weights at 37 and 38 weeks' gestation, compared with those born heavier.

The study was published online Monday in Pediatrics.

The research "will cause quite a stir," said Dr. Judy Aschner, a pediatrics professor and neonatology director at Vanderbilt University Medical Center.

"There are still a lot of babies who are being delivered more or less electively at 37 and 38 weeks, with people thinking, `This is no big deal—these babies are full-term.' I think this is a big deal," Aschner said. She was not involved in the study.

Aschner said no one is recommending trying to delay childbirth for women who go into labor at 37 weeks or 38 weeks.

"I don't want to panic moms whose babies come at 37 weeks," she said. "But those elective early deliveries really need to stop."

Some hospitals including Vanderbilt require obstetricians planning elective C-sections to complete a checklist and if appropriate boxes aren't checked, the operation can't be performed, Aschner said.

In the study, 15 percent of children were born in C-section operations but there was no information on how many of these were elective or medically necessary procedures. C-sections can cause birth complications that also increase chances for developmental delays. But the researchers took that into account, along with other risk factors including low birth weight, lack of prenatal care, smoking during pregnancy and neighborhood poverty—all of which could contribute to academic difficulties. And they still found that birth at 37 weeks and 38 weeks was an additional risk.

'I Love Lucy' actress Doris Singleton dead at 92

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Actress Doris Singleton, who played one of Lucy and Ricky Ricardo's lesser-known neighbors on "I Love Lucy," has died. She was 92.

Lucie Arnaz, daughter of Lucille Ball and Desi Arnaz, confirmed the death in an email to The Associated Press and in a post on her Facebook page. Singleton died Tuesday, the same day as writer-director Nora Ephron, and Arnaz acknowledged them both in her post, writing, "They were loved and appreciated and will be missed."

Singleton

Singleton's death also was reported by Variety and the Hollywood Reporter.

Her character, first called Lillian Appleby and then Caroline Appleby, appeared in 10 episodes. She was Lucy's neighbor, the wife of a radio station owner.

"She was sort of Lucy's nemesis" because both had young sons, Singleton said in a 2005 interview for the Archive of American Television of the Academy of Television Arts & Sciences Foundation. "There was a rivalry there but she had to be nice, Lucy had to be nice to Caroline, because her husband owned the radio station."

Harpo Marx was the guest star in one episode.

"Harpo played a concert for us afterward," Singleton said, adding that she loved the episode. "I was one of the blondes he was chasing!"

Fred and Ethel Mertz, played by William Frawley and Vivian Vance, were the Ricardos' closest friends on the show. Frawley died in 1966 and Vance in 1979.

On set, Lucille Ball was nice to Singleton but she was tough when it came to the show.

Actors were replaced "if she didn't like you or you made a mistake or you flopped," Singleton said.

"It was a very difficult show to work, it was challenging," Singleton said, with only a few days of rehearsal and constant script changes.

Born in Brooklyn, Singleton was a professional ballet dancer in her teens, and later became a singer and radio actress.

Singleton also played Margaret Williams on the 1960s sitcom "My Three Sons" and she appeared on dozens of other TV shows in the 1950s, 60s and 70s, including another Lucille Ball program, "Here's Lucy," ''Perry Mason," ''All in the Family," and "Days of Our Lives."

Don Grady, who played big brother Robbie Douglas on "My Three Sons," died Wednesday of cancer at age 68.

Singleton was married to comedy writer Charlie Isaacs for 61 years before his death in 2002.

Is there anything Seth MacFarlane can't do?

By DAVID GERMAIN
AP MOVIE WRITER

LOS ANGELES (AP)—In the unlikely event that Seth MacFarlane comes looking to you for a job, it might be simpler to sort through his qualifications by asking what he can't do, rather than what he can.

TV's animation king with "Family Guy," ''American Dad!" and "The Cleveland Show," MacFarlane adds to his renaissance man resume as writer, director, producer and voice star of "Ted," a raunchy but warmhearted tale of a grown man (Mark Wahlberg) and his best buddy, a talking teddy bear.

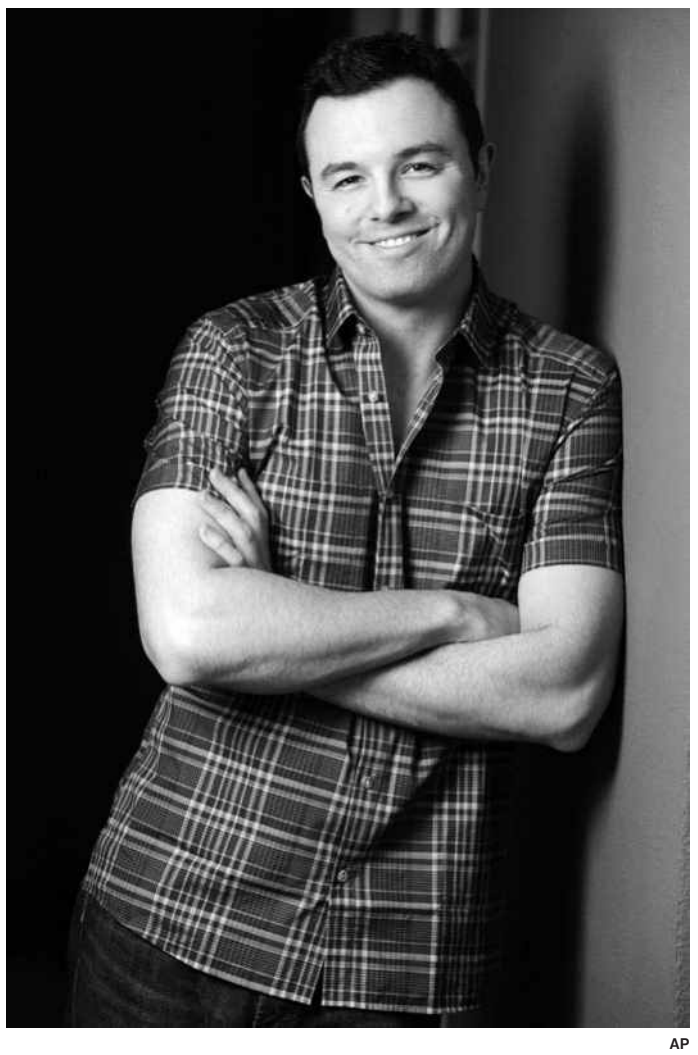
Leading up to his big-screen debut, the 38-year-old MacFarlane has been a TV hit-maker and animation voice star since his mid-20s, a career whose roots go back to when he started drawing at age 2. He's done sold-out live musical comedy shows, which led to last year's Grammy-nominated album "Music Is Better Than Words," with MacFarlane crooning Sinatra-style orchestra standards.

He's even a bit of a science nerd, growing up on Carl Sagan's books and now overseeing "Cosmos: A Time-Space Odyssey," a follow-up to the late astronomer's documentary series about the nature of the universe.

So what can't MacFarlane do?

"I'm a terrible tennis player. Terrible, horrific," MacFarlane said.

"I tend to like to try things that I haven't done before, for better or worse. I go into new things not afraid to fail. I went into this project ("Ted") with that in mind, I went into the album project with that attitude. I like things that scare me a little bit."



AP

This June 16, 2012 photo shows Seth MacFarlane, director and co-writer of the film "TED," posing for a portrait at The Four Seasons Hotel in Beverly Hills, Calif.

Loaded with MacFarlane's weird, irreverent humor, the potty-mouthed "Ted" has the ingredients of a sleeper hit amid the summer's superhero flicks, action tales and animated family franchises.

The premise is clever and different, and Wahlberg and MacFarlane's title character make for one of the freshest pairs ever in a party-boy buddy comedy. Ted's a horny little hell-raiser, messing around with hookers, smoking pot, snorting coke and dropping F-bombs like confetti.

He's basically the slacker roommate who won't move out, mucking up the relationship between childhood pal John (Wahlberg) and his girlfriend (Mila Kunis, one of MacFarlane's voice stars on "Family Guy").

Rated R for its language, "Ted" allows MacFarlane to push beyond the limits of what he can do on network television while maintaining a twisted sweetness to the story. He likes to think of it as a family comedy for families whose parents don't mind swearing around their kids.

"My parents were OK with me watching a lot of things when I was a kid, because they were around to explain," MacFarlane said. "They swore, and they were very clear about what was right and wrong, but they didn't view bad language as the worst offense in the world. My mother would stub her toe and let loose a string of obscenities that you wouldn't believe."

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The Amazing Spider-Man

Tuesday	1:10	4:10	7:10	9:55
Wednesday and Thursday	1:10	4:10	7:10	

Andrew Garfield, Emma Stone
Action, Fantasy, Drama • Rated PG 13

Synopsis

"The Amazing Spider-Man" is the story of Peter Parker (Garfield), an outcast high schooler who was abandoned by his parents as a boy, leaving him to be raised by his Uncle Ben (Sheen) and Aunt May (Field). Like most teenagers, Peter is trying to figure out who he is and how he got to be the person he is today. Peter is also finding his way with his first high school crush, Gwen Stacy (Stone), and together, they struggle with love, commitment, and secrets. As Peter discovers a mysterious briefcase that belonged to his father, he begins a quest to understand his parents' disappearance—leading him directly to Oscorp and the lab of Dr. Curt Connors (Ifans), his father's former partner. As Spider-Man is set on a collision course with Connors' alter-ego.

Magic Mike

Tuesday	1:20	4:20	7:20	9:45
Wednesday and Thursday	1:20	4:20	7:20	

Channing Tatum, Alex Pettyfer
Comedy, Drama • Rated R

Synopsis

Steven Soderbergh directs Channing Tatum in this drama following an upstart male stripper who is mentored by a veteran dancer. Soderbergh directs from a script by Reid Carolin, whose script is inspired by Tatum's work as a stripper before he made it in Hollywood.

Ted

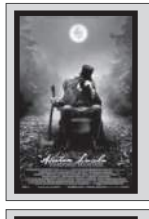
Tuesday	1:25	4:25	7:25	10:05
Wednesday and Thursday	1:25	4:25	7:25	

Mark Wahlberg, Mila Kunis
Comedy • Rated R

Brave

Tuesday	1:30	4:30	7:30	10:00
Wednesday and Thursday	1:30	4:30	7:30	

Kelly MacDonald, Emma Thompson
Children's/family • Rated PG



Abraham Lincoln: Vampire Hunter

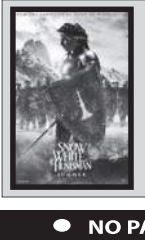
Tuesday	1:00	4:00	7:00	9:50
Wednesday and Thursday	1:00	4:00	7:00	

Benjamin Walker, Mary Elizabeth Winstead
Fantasy, Action • Rated R

Madagascar 3: Europe's Most Wanted

Tuesday	1:15	4:15	7:15	9:30
Wednesday and Thursday	1:15	4:15	7:15	

Ben Stiller, Chris Rock, David Schwimmer
Children's/family • Rated PG



Snow White and The Huntsman

Tuesday	1:05	4:05	7:05	9:35
Wednesday and Thursday	1:05	4:05	7:05	

Kristen Stewart, Chris Hemsworth
Fantasy • Rated PG 13

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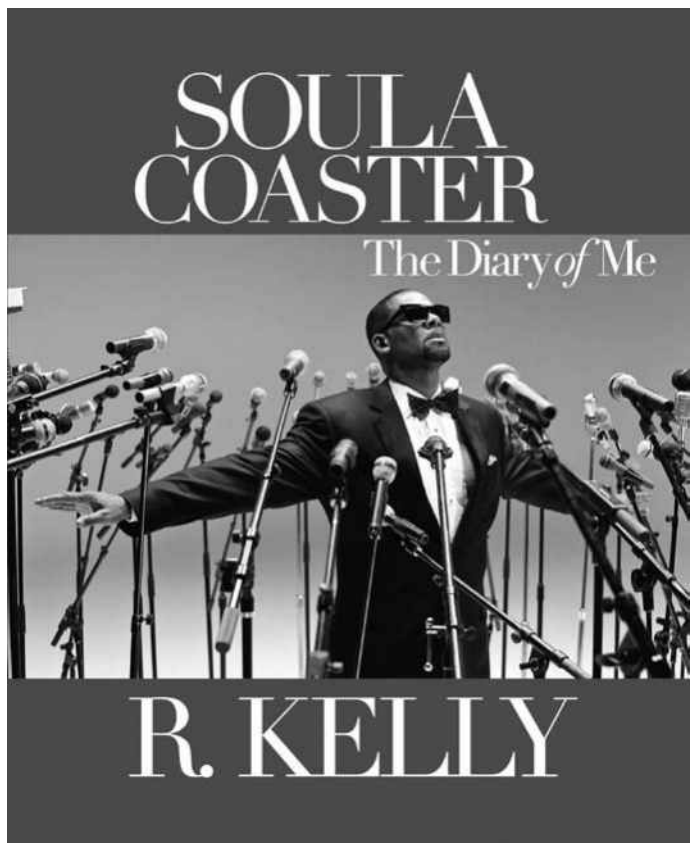
R. Kelly autobiography vivid despite guarded tone

By JESSE WASHINGTON
AP NATIONAL WRITER



AP
This image provided by SmileyBooks shows the cover of R. Kelly's "Soulacoaster: The Diary of Me."

Let's get this out of the way up front: R. Kelly's autobiography does not discuss what really happened with the sex tape that almost sent him to prison. It does not include a single word about Aaliyah, the late singer Kelly allegedly married when she was 15. Other tantalizing incidents and individuals are glossed over. A tell-all, this is not.

Instead, "Soulacoaster: The Diary of Me" recounts the creative and family life of a once-in-a-generation performer and musician. Despite its guarded tone, the book is a vivid and entertaining journey that reveals much about the musical engine of a true artist.

Kelly, whose ability to write and produce hits for himself and others is unparalleled in modern R&B, does confront the defining theme of his career: the juxtaposition of the sacred and the profane, the sexual and the spiritual.

In the first paragraph of his life story, Kelly's beloved mother promises that he "could achieve all things through Christ Jesus." Turn the page, and Mama Joann is sneaking 5-year-old Robert into a lounge where she is singing with her band. Next she's in church, speaking in tongues. A few pages later, 8-year-old Robert is inside his mother's house on the South Side of Chicago, taking pornographic pictures of adults and being molested by a teenage girl.

And people question how "Sex Weed" and "U Saved Me" can come from the same man?

Music was a constant presence inside young Robert. He literally had sounds cascading through his mind, "like I had a radio playing nonstop in my head . I would hear melodies, although I never knew what they meant. In fact, I thought everybody heard the music."

Kelly also never knew his father and could not read due to an undiagnosed disability. (Kelly says he is still illiterate; his book was written with David Ritz, biographer of Marvin Gaye, Ray Charles, and other giants.) The only reason Kelly graduated from elementary school was because he could play basketball. All this created a shy, shameful boy who often felt "like an alien," a phrase that reappears throughout the book.

Kelly credits his middle-school music teacher, Lena McLin, with recognizing his talent. As Kelly tells it, the first time McLin laid eyes on him in class, she singled him out and said: "You are going to be famous. You are going to write songs for Michael Jackson. You are going to travel the world."

Did she really say that without hearing him sing or play a note? It's difficult to decide, especially since Kelly shades the facts elsewhere in the book. It's obvious, however, that Kelly loves McLin, and that she played an enormous role in Kelly's development. Strangely, she vanishes from the book after Kelly drops out of high school, and one can't help but wonder what this God-fearing pastor thought of her star pupil's raunchy material.

"Soulacoaster" goes on to describe the rise of Kelly's career and engrossing details of the creation of his many classic songs and albums. Fans of Kelly and black music in general will enjoy his description of working with artists from Jackson (Kelly wrote "You Are Not Alone" for him, unasked) to Celine Dion ("I'm Your Angel") to Notorious BIG (the title of their best collaboration can't be printed here).

His description of how he created "I Believe I Can Fly" must be read to be believed (it involves childhood dreams and melodies realized decades later). And Kelly does go into some detail about the conflicts with Jay Z during their tour, which led to Kelly being pepper-sprayed backstage and fleeing Madison Square Garden arena in the middle of a show.

'Ted' outstrips 'Mike' in big box-office weekend

LOS ANGELES (AP)—It's both a bear and bull market for Hollywood.

The bear is "Ted," Mark Wahlberg and Seth MacFarlane's comedy for Universal Pictures about a talking teddy bear, which opened as the No. 1 movie with $54.1 million, according to studio estimates Sunday.

And the bulls are baring it in the Warner Bros. release "Magic Mike," Channing Tatum and Steven Soderbergh's male-stripper tale that debuted a strong No. 2 with $39.2 million.

The two new movies were backed by a deep bench, with Pixar Animation's Disney fairy tale "Brave" holding up well at No. 3 with $34 million in its second weekend. "Tyler Perry's Madea's Witness Protection," the latest from the dependable breadwinner for Lionsgate Films, opened solidly at No. 4 with $26.4 million.

The four movies combined to keep Hollywood in the money compared to the same weekend last year, when "Transformers: Dark of the Moon" launched with $97.9 million.

It was an equally big weekend overseas, where two huge franchises got a head-start on their U.S. openings.

AP
This film image released by Universal Pictures shows Mark Wahlberg, left with the character Ted, voiced by Seth MacFarlane in a scene from "Ted."

1. "**Ted**," $54.1 million.
2. "**Magic Mike**," $39.2 million.
3. "**Brave**," $34 million *($6.7 million international).*
4. "**Tyler Perry's Madea's Witness Protection**," $26.4 million.
5. "**Madagascar 3: Europe's Most Wanted**," $11.8 million *($16.2 million international).*
6. "**Abraham Lincoln: Vampire Hunter**," $6 million *($5 million international).*
7. "**Prometheus**," $4.93 million *($6.2 million international).*
8. "**Moonrise Kingdom**," $4.9 million *($375,000 international).*
9. "**Snow White & the Huntsman**," $4.4 million *($14.5 million international).*
10. "**People Like Us**," $4.3 million.

The 20th Century Fox animated sequel "Ice Age: Continental Drift" opened with $78 million in 34 international markets, while Sony's "The Amazing Spider-Man" debuted with $50.2 million in 13 markets. "Amazing Spider-Man" opens domestically Tuesday for the Fourth of July weekend, while "Continental Drift" has its U.S. debut July 13.

Houston honored, Kanye, Jay-Z win top award

By MESFIN FEKADU
ASSOCIATED PRESS

Cissy Houston's tribute to her late daughter was the emotional highlight of Sunday's BET Awards, a show that was defined by extended bleeps and the vulgarities that censors failed to catch onstage throughout the night.

Whitney Houston's mother gave a rousing performance of "Bridge Over Troubled Water" that left the crowd in tears, including Beyonce and Melanie Fiona.

Mariah Carey opened the tribute with memories of her friend. She was followed by a moving number by Monica. Brandy, heavily influenced by Houston, sang two of the late singer's hits. Chaka Khan blazed the stage with "I'm Every Woman," which Houston remade. Gary Houston, Whitney's brother, also performed.

But the nearly four-hour BET Awards was more like the Bleep Awards, as entire segments of performances from Nicki Minaj to Rick Ross were muted out due to foul language.

It started during the opening number by Kanye West's G.O.O.D. music group, which included Big Sean, Pusha T and 2 Chainz. There were long moments of censored silence when the rappers performed "Mercy," though not all the offending words were bleeped out. Moments later, Samuel L. Jackson, the show's host, was joined by Spike Lee as they did a comedic version of Jay-Z and West's hit song "... In Paris," to laughs.

"Two distinguished Morehouse men," Lee joked after the performance, referencing the alma mater of the two.

The censor police also worked overtime when Rick Ross performed with his Maybach Music Group and during Minaj's performance and acceptance speech for best female hip-hop artist. Minaj's win was her third consecutive time taking the prize.

AP

Cissy Houston performs during the in memoriam to her daughter Whitney Houston at the BET Awards on Sunday, July 1, 2012, in Los Angeles.

WINNERS' LIST

The list of key winners at the BET Awards

Best group: Kanye West and Jay-Z
Best actor: Kevin Hart
Sportswoman of the year: Serena Williams
Sportsman of the year: Kevin Durant
Best new artist: Big Sean
Best male R&B artist: Chris Brown
Best collaboration: Wale featuring Miguel "Lotus Flower Bomb"
Best gospel: Yolanda Adams
Best female R&B artist: Beyonce
Best female hip-hop artist: Nicki Minaj
Video of the Year: Jay-Z and Kanye West, "Otis"
Lifetime Achievement: Frankie Beverly featuring Maze
Humanitarian Award: Rev. Al Sharpton
Viewer's Choice Award: Mindless Behavior
Video Director of the Year: Beyonce and Alan Ferguson
Fandemonium Award: Chris Brown
Centric award: Common

"I really, really appreciate BET for keeping this category alive, and I appreciate all the female rappers doing their thing, past, present and future," she said, before uttering an obscenity.

Gospel star Yolanda Adams, who also performed, gently took some of her peers to task as she won best gospel artist, urging them to act mature and use their fame wisely.

"We need all of y'all," she said. "I'm saying the world needs everyone in this room. Please make sure that you use your gift responsibly, `cause we're watching. Our babies are watching, and they want to be like us."

West and Jay-Z won the ceremony's top prize, earning video of the year for "Otis." They also won best group.

West, who was up for seven awards, was the top nominee. Beyonce was the second most nominated act with six. She won video director of the year (along with Alan Ferguson) and best female R&B artist and thanked the genre and her female influences.

"I fell in love with music by listening to R&B. It's the core of who I am," she said, giving special thanks to Lauryn Hill, Mary J. Blige and "Whitney Houston, my angel."

When she lost video of the year to Jay-Z and West, she playfully hit her husband and laughed. The joking continued: Moments later, as West was giving his acceptance speech, Jay-Z interrupted him and said: "Excuse me Kanye, I'm gonna let you continue, but ...," and the audience erupted with laughter, recalling West's infamous interruption of Taylor Swift's MTV Video Music Awards speech a few years back.

Chris Brown was also a double winner. Kevin Hart—who hosted the awards last year—also won for best actor, Big Sean was named best new artist and Wale and Miguel's smooth hit "Lotus Flower Bomb" won best collaboration.

The tone of night fluctuated frequently, as the show shifted from hotly anticipated performances to solemn moments to irreverence. Usher performed his groove "Climax," and Nicki Minaj sported a blonde wig with pink tips as she performed the songs "Champion" and "Beez In the Trap," which featured 2 Chainz.

Composers' teeth stolen? Austria investigating

VIENNA (AP)—Have the teeth of two famed 19th-century composers been stolen from their graves? Austrian prosecutors are trying to find out.

Thomas Vecsey of the Vienna state prosecutor's office says authorities are considering filing charges against a man suspected of breaking into the graves of Austrian waltz king Johann Strauss Jr. and German Romantic composer Johannes Brahms and taking their teeth. Both are buried in Vienna.

Vecsey said Friday that suspicions first arose in 2008 but investigators determined that any crime fell under Austria's statute of limitations. New evidence other graves might have been disturbed has led to the probe's reopening.

The Austria Press Agency said prosecutors consider a Slovak man a person of interest. Prosecutors did not name the suspect nor suggest any potential motivation for the alleged thefts.

TNT's 'Dallas' revival wins a second-season pickup

NEW YORK (AP)—The Ewings are forever battling each other, and viewers clearly love them.

TNT network says "Dallas" has been renewed for a 15-episode second season. The network announced Friday it will air in 2013.

Following the lives of J.R., Bobby and Sue Ellen Ewing, as well as the rest of the fractious clan, "Dallas" was revived earlier this month after decades off the air. It is averaging 6.9 million viewers in this, its first season.

"Dallas" brings back original cast members Larry Hagman, Patrick Duffy and Linda Gray, who are joined by Southfork newcomers including Josh Henderson, Jesse Metcalfe, Jordana Brewster and Julie Gonzalo.

The series was initially broadcast by CBS from 1978 to 1991.

Clooney to raise money for Obama in Geneva

WASHINGTON (AP)—Actor George Clooney is offering more help to President Barack Obama's re-election campaign by headlining a European fundraiser this summer for Americans living abroad.

Clooney

An invitation posted on Obama's campaign website says Clooney will be the special guest at an Obama fundraiser in Geneva on Aug. 27.

Tickets start at $1,000 per person, and dinner for two costs a cool $30,000.

Clooney held a gala fundraiser at his Los Angeles home in May that raised nearly $15 million. He typically spends time during the summer at his villa on Italy's Lake Como. Obama's campaign has held fundraising events overseas to raise money from U.S. citizens living abroad.

Free from addictive eating, woman now embraces life

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
FROM UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

DearAbby

DEAR ABBY: I want you to know that you saved my life. I was a lonely, desperate woman, dying a slow and painful death. I had an eating disorder and weighed more than 400 pounds. I was taking many different medications and suffering from depression, high blood pressure and other ailments. Most of them were the result of my addictive eating. I wore a size 52 dress and had 89-inch hips. I had trouble caring for myself and I wanted to die.

One day, I saw a letter you had printed from a woman who seemed to know what I was feeling. She had gone to a 12-step program and was happy, successful and free from her addictive eating disorder.

Seeing her letter gave me a spark of hope. I sought and found a program called Overeaters Anonymous and began attending meetings. I took a sponsor and am in recovery from the food addiction. I lost more than 300 pounds and have lived in a normal-sized body for eight years. (It took a long time to lose that weight safely and sanely.)

Thanks to that letter in your column, and your continuing support of the 12-step programs, I am living a life that I never imagined possible. No words can ever express the gratitude I feel for what you have done for me and many others. At our meetings, speakers often share that they found recovery because of a letter to Dear Abby. Please keep the word going that there is hope for us, no matter how far down we are or how far we have gone.

JANET IN ORLANDO, FLA.

DEAR JANET: Thank you for a heartwarming letter. It's gratifying to know you were helped because of something you read in my column. I hope your success will inspire others who also suffer from compulsive overeating and are unaware that help is available.

Overeaters Anonymous has more than 6,500 groups in more than 80 countries. There are no requirements for membership except a desire to stop eating compulsively. I have attended some of the meetings. There is no shaming, no weighing and no embarrassment—only a fellowship of compassionate people who share a common problem.

Chapters are located in almost every city, but anyone who has difficulty locating one should go to www.oa.org, or send a long, self-addressed stamped envelope to Overeaters Anonymous World Service Office, P.O. Box 44020, Rio Rancho, NM 87174-4020. The email address is info@oa.org.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: We have a friend who lives in another city and takes a lot of trips. She visits me a couple of times a year. When she does, she brings along a large photo album from her most recent vacation and insists we sit down with her so she can give us a running commentary about each snapshot. Abby, her travelogues last an hour or more.

We're pleased that our friend enjoys her trips, but we no longer wish to be subjected to her "presentations." We would never expect her—or anyone—to view all the pictures we take on our travels. How can we gently explain this to her?

WEARY IN THE WEST

DEAR WEARY: The next time your houseguest hauls out her photo album, try this: Tell her you'd love to hear about her trip, but you'd like her to show you only two or three of her "favorite" pictures from her most memorable destination. That may narrow the field and shorten the monologue.

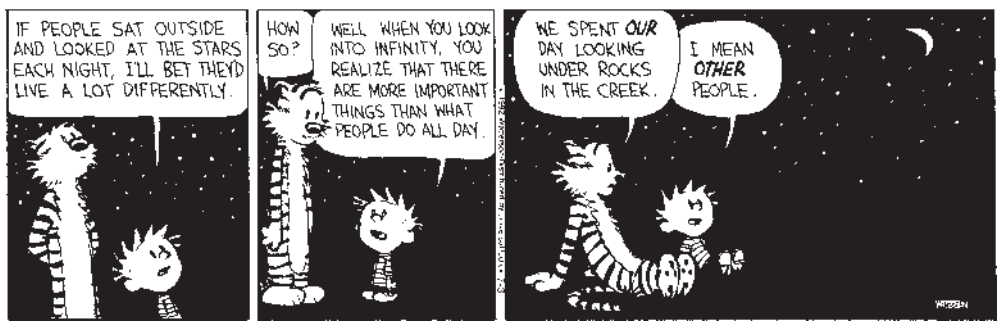
Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Good advice for everyone—teens to seniors—is in "The Anger in All of Us and How to Deal With It." To order, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Anger Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

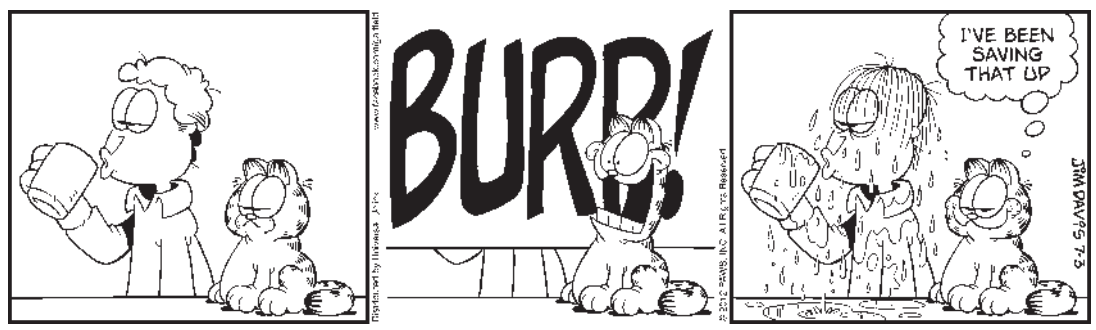
Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


IF PEOPLE SAT OUTSIDE AND LOOKED AT THE STARS EACH NIGHT, I'LL BET THEY'D LIVE A LOT DIFFERENTLY.
HOW SO?
WELL WHEN YOU LOOK INTO INFINITY, YOU REALIZE THAT THERE ARE MORE IMPORTANT THINGS THAN WHAT PEOPLE DO ALL DAY.
WE SPENT OUR DAY LOOKING UNDER ROCKS IN THE CREEK.
I MEAN OTHER PEOPLE.

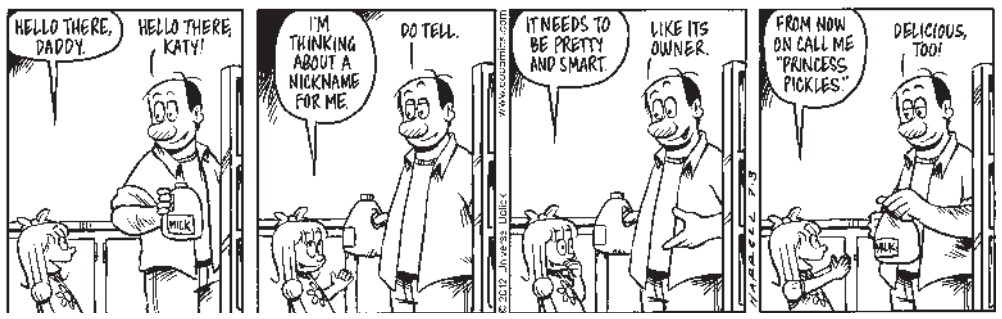
Garfield®

By Jim Davis



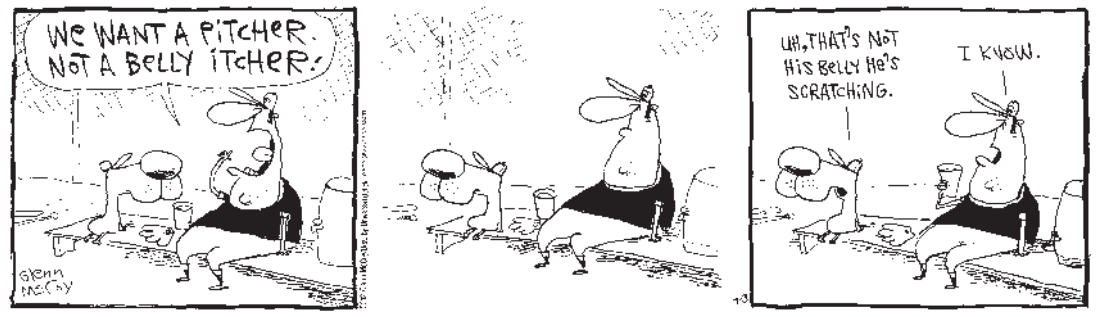
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


HELLO THERE, DADDY.
HELLO THERE, KATY!
I'M THINKING ABOUT A NICKNAME FOR ME.
DO TELL.
IT NEEDS TO BE PRETTY AND SMART.
LIKE ITS OWNER.
FROM NOW ON CALL ME "PRINCESS PICKLES."
DELICIOUS, TOO!

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

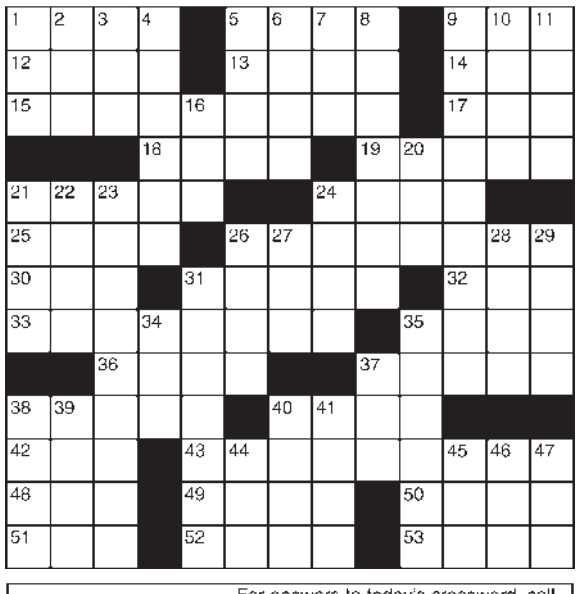
ACROSS
1 Wound cover
5 Block of bread
9 Once around the track
12 Malaria symptom
13 Jason's ship
14 Savings plan acronym
15 Almost 6 trillion miles
17 Wilde-beest
18 Approxi-mately
19 Mrs. Fred Mertz
21 Abdomen
24 Leave out
25 Surround-ed by
26 Fall month
30 Big truck
31 Pie nut
32 Actress Hagen
33 Intangible
35 Czech or Bulgarian
36 Prepared to drive
37 Aristo-cratic
38 Vaults
40 Fermi's bit
42 Past
43 Bar order
48 Ultra-modern
49 Beige
50 "Cogito, — sum"
51 Superla-tive ending
52 Favorable votes
53 Carry on

DOWN
1 Bando of baseball lore
2 Holly-wood trickery (Abbr.)
3 Calendar abbr.
4 "Lo!"
5 Deposits
6 Dunkable treat
7 — Khan
8 Construc-tion bosses
9 Symbol for an idea
10 "Rule, Britannia" composer
11 One of the Beatles
16 Attempt
20 Allen or Burton
21 Naked
22 Send forth
23 "Sun-down" singer Gordon
24 Elliptical
26 Require
27 Goose (Sp.)
28 And others (Abbr.)
29 Four-star review
31 "The King"
34 Shoe width
35 Dark and gloomy
37 "To be or — ..."
38 Logical
39 Many, many years
40 City of India
41 So
44 "Rocks"
45 Historic period
46 Early bird?
47 Wade opponent

Solution time: 21 mins.

A	T	O	P	■	C	A	D	■	D	A	R	T
L	O	R	H	A	I	N	E	■	E	C	H	O
A	R	T	I	S	T	I	C	■	A	R	E	A
■	■	■	S	H	E	■	R	E	R	E	A	D
A	L	L	O	Y	■	P	E	A	T	■	■	■
R	E	I	N	■	T	R	A	S	H	E	D	■
F	A	R	■	B	O	O	S	T	■	R	O	T
■	F	A	T	I	G	U	E	■	A	G	R	A
■	■	■	H	E	E	D	■	H	B	O	M	B
R	E	V	E	R	T	■	G	A	Y	■	■	■
O	R	E	O	■	H	O	L	I	S	T	I	C
D	O	E	R	■	E	V	E	R	M	O	R	E
E	S	P	Y	■	R	A	N	■	S	E	A	N

Yesterday's answer 7-3



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Olivia Munn, 32; Patrick Wilson, 39; Tom Cruise, 50; Montel Williams, 56.

Happy Birthday: Look at the possibilities, and select options that allow you to diversify and utilize your skills uniquely. You can find ways to earn more if you are proactive. A change in the way you present what you do and in your work habits will attract interest. Consider new ways to market a service you can offer. Your numbers are 4, 11, 14, 21, 29, 30, 49.

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Avoid unwinnable emotional situations. Focus on doing a great job or putting together an updated resume and looking for something new and exciting to do with your time. Networking will lead to a positive change of plans. ✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Participation will enhance your options regarding work, money and the skills you have to offer. Discuss your plans with friends and relatives and you will receive plenty of input. Don't feel you have to make an impulsive move. Time is on your side. ✪✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Money will go out as quickly as it comes in if you aren't careful when it comes to impulsive purchases. Slow down and think matters through before you make a commitment that may not be a good fit for you in the future. ✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Keep your thoughts and secrets private for now. Re-evaluate what your next move is going to be before you make it public. Don't let an emotional situation or partnership lead you astray. Follow the path that suits you best. ✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Don't bend to peer pressure or fall for an embellished version of what's being offered. Size up your situation and know the facts before you make a promise that may not be to your advantage. Love is in the stars. ✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Getting involved in activities that interest you will help you find a new pastime that relieves stress and helps you meet new people. Don't let someone stand in the way or lead you in a direction that doesn't fit your life. ✪✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Spreading knowledge, information and ideas to people you want to share with will open up all sorts of new possibilities. Getting out and exploring new places, people and activities will motivate you to make overdue changes. ✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): You'll have a good overview of what everyone else is doing and how you can work alongside the people you enjoy most. A creative suggestion or move will lead to good fortune, as long as you stick to a set budget. ✪✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Bounce ideas off of someone you find progressive and positive. Working in unison with others will bring great results. High energy and great ideas will lead to recognition and potentially long-term partnerships, contracts and cash. ✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Get your priorities straight before you proceed. Discipline and finding out firsthand what's needed in order to reach a set goal will be a must. Take measures to enhance a personal relationship with someone you are connected to financially. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Put feelers out to people you have worked with or for in the past, and make suggestions regarding what you have to offer now. There are profits to be made and positive changes to implement, both personally and professionally. ✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): It's what you do and the way you do it that will count. Offer positive suggestions and hands-on help to avoid any repercussions that can result from being critical. Overreacting, overindulging or overspending will lead to trouble. ✪✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are determined and persistent. You pursue any opportunity to make progress.

Eugenia's Web sites: ***eugenialast.com*** *for confidential consultations,* ***myspace.com/eugenialast*** *for Eugenia's blog,* ***astroadvice.com*** *for fun*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

	3				5			
1	4		9	3				
		6	2					
	9	1	3					7
	8			9			1	
4					7	6	5	
					4	9		
				5	3		6	4
			8				2	

Difficulty Level ★★ 7/03

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

5	4	7	8	3	6	2	9	1
3	2	1	5	9	7	6	8	4
8	6	9	2	1	4	3	5	7
4	7	8	9	5	3	1	2	6
2	3	5	4	6	1	9	7	8
9	1	6	7	2	8	5	4	3
1	8	2	6	4	5	7	3	9
7	9	3	1	8	2	4	6	5
6	5	4	3	7	9	8	1	2

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD. The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

OLYMPIC SPORTS PAST & PRESENT — Solution: 8 letters

S	E	C	E	E	R	G	N	I	L	C	Y	C	B	W
I	N	T	E	R	N	A	T	I	O	N	A	L	I	R
N	N	O	S	I	E	X	C	E	L	L	E	N	C	E
N	A	G	W	I	L	V	L	L	A	B	T	F	O	S
E	I	O	I	B	N	L	L	T	R	E	L	A	Y	T
T	R	L	M	O	O	O	A	I	R	M	E	D	A	L
A	T	D	M	X	R	A	L	B	S	A	E	A	L	I
E	S	Y	I	I	E	E	R	H	E	U	C	V	P	N
K	E	R	N	N	N	O	F	D	T	S	M	K	I	G
W	U	T	G	G	N	H	(E)	E	I	A	A	M	N	D
O	Q	N	A	Z	I	O	T	(M)	R	N	T	B	E	C
N	E	U	E	K	W	C	H	L	(A)	E	G	N	A	R
D	H	O	S	T	S	K	I	I	N	(G)	E	N	E	O
O	E	C	A	R	D	E	E	P	S	N	O	L	O	P
F	R	E	E	S	T	Y	L	E	S	E	G	D	U	J

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Alpine, Baseball, Boxing, Bronze, Canoe, Country, Cycling, Dive, Equestrian, Excellence, Freestyle, Game, Gold, Greece, Hockey, Host, International, Judges, Medal, Pentathlon, Polo, Race, Referee, Relay, Rowing, Silver, Skate, Skiing, Snowboarding, Softball, Speed, Summer, Swimming, Taekwondo, Tennis, Track, Winner, Winter, Wrestling

Yesterday's Answer: Maintain

THE COLLECTED WONDERWORD, Volume 3 is the Premier Collection of Puzzles! Featuring all the U.S. puzzles found in Canada's most popular Sunday newspaper. To order, send $8.95 check or money order payable to Universal Uclick and $3 postage to the address on page 1. Specify the name of the book. Send to: WONDERWORD, 1130 Walnut St., Kansas City, MO 64106. Special Bulk rates, 1-800-642-5400. Order online at www.amuzzement.com. Quantity discounts available for orders of 48 puzzles. 12 of each title per order (20 x 28 inches).

CLASSIFIED ADS

WANTED TO BUY

Need cash fast??? We want to buy your OnePass miles or Skymiles!!! Call 888-2205.

BUSINESS FOR SALE

Massage Shop on Guam. sale for business (not real estate) well populated area. $10,000. call 671-727-8447 or send inquiry to tropicisla@hotmail.com

FOR RENT - RESIDENTIAL

Anaks Condo, 2BRs, washer/dryer, ceiling fans, a/c, storage, r/o water, swimming pool, tennis court, gated, 24/7 security. Ideal location, close to central Garapan. Call Ron Barrineau 322-4758 or 483-4785.

Ocean View Terraces. Luxury 2BR & 1BTH Apts w/private balcony & beautiful view. Rooms w/ A/C & Fully Furnished. Back-up Generator. Free Wi-Fi. Laundry Area. Nighttime security. $600/mo. Call 235-6527/28 or 285-1317.

FOR RENT - RESIDENTIAL

Sunset View Terraces. Luxury 2BR & 1BTH Apts w/private balcony & beautiful view. Rooms w/ A/C & Fully Furnished. Back-up Generator. Free Wi-Fi. Laundry Area. Nighttime security. $550. Call 235-6527/28 or 285-1317.

Lower Navy Hill Apts. Newly renovated bldg., 3BR & 2BTH. Rooms w/ A/C & fully furnished. Back-up generator. Free Wi-Fi, EPA Solar Water Heater. Laundry area. Nighttime security. $450/mo. Call 235-6527/28 or 285-1317.

Fina Sisu Apt., 2-BR, 1-BTH, FF, AC, BU Genset/24-hr water, security, laundry room, free Wi-Fi & ample parking. Close to NMC campus. MIHA applicants accepted. Pls. visit our website www.saipan-properties.com. Call 235-6527/8 or 285-1317 for info.

WHATZIT Solution:
One of a kind

SUCCESS INTERNATIONAL CORP.
DBA: SUCCESS AUTO REPAIR SHOP
JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

(1) BODY REPAIRMAN / WELDER
RATE: $5.05 - $5.50 PER HOUR

(1) AUTO AND HEAVY EQUIPMENT ELECTRICIAN
RATE: $5.50 - $6.00 PER HOUR

QUALIFICATIONS:
MORE THAN 5 YEARS EXPERIENCE
H.S. VOCATIONAL OR COLLEGE LEVEL

Knowledgeable in mechanical problem.
In charge of repairing, troubleshooting and upgrading the vehicle's electrical system as well as the devices that relies on electrical energy.

KNOW HOW TO DIAGNOSE ELECTRICAL WIRING/CABLE PROBLEM OF VEHICLE

KNOW HOW TO REPAIR OR HANDLE EVERYTHING SUCH AS VEHICLE IGNITION, ALARM, COOLING AND HEATING SYSTEM, POWER WINDOW AND LOCK, NAVIGATION SYSTEM.

APPLY OR SEND RESUME TO SUCCESSFUL INTERNATIONAL CORP.
PMB 778 BOX 10003 SAIPAN, MP 96950
LOWER BASE OR CALL 322-1558/1988

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

2-Beautician (all around)
$ 5.05/hr
Min. 5 to 10 yrs experience

Bespren Development Corp, dba Exquisite Beauty Salon
Please contact Rudy at 233-6927

Job Vacancy Announcement

SAIPAN AUTO CLINIC COMPANY
is looking for

1- Radiator Repairer

Minimum wage. Must have at least 1 year work experience.

Interested Qualified US Workers can fax resume to 235-7742.

MAR PAC

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

Marianas Pacific Dist., Inc. is looking for highly motivated and experienced individuals to work as

Graphic Designer

- Good Oral and Written Communications Skills
- Must be proficient in Adobe Photoshop & Illustrator
- Computer literate with proficiency in Microsoft Word, Power Point, Excel and Outlook
- Knowledge of Corel Draw & Onyx Poster Shop is a plus
- Must be able to brainstorm and mock up new design ideas
- Must be detail & deadline oriented
- Must be able to work Evenings/Overtime if needed
- Must be 18 yrs of age or older

MarPac Dist., Inc Offers competitive salaries commensurate with qualifications and experience.

Applications may be picked up and submitted at the MARPAC office located in Gualo Rai Village – Saipan. Deadline of submission is on July 6, 2012.

NO TELEPHONE CALLS PLEASE.

As condition of Employment, MARPAC requires proof of identity and Eligibility to work in the CNMI. Drug testing, Police and Court Clearance.

MARPAC Dist., Inc. is an Equal Opportunity Employer

Subscribe to the CNMI's
First Daily Newspaper
Call 235-NEWS
Saipan Tribune
Over 100 food stamp vouchers on hold
Businesses slam 'excessive' $500 fire re-inspection, $500 permit fees
Are you ready to Ace it?
Opinion
Even despots don't live forever
The flagrance of war
Focus
More US Catholics take complaints to church court
Campus Life
KagHS JROTC does well in drill competiti
GCA's January forensic winners
Overdrive
Mustang Boss 302
a thrill to drive, but lacks the extras
Life&Style
Davis, Dujardin win lead honors at SAG awards
Pastimes
Sports
Rollers eyeing two trips to PH in 201
'King of Aces' on island through

CLASSIFIEDS RATES AND POLICIES

Saipan Tribune's Classifieds Section gives you the right exposure without hurting your pockets. Stretch your dollar and get results.

CLASSIFIED LINER ADS

Saipan Tribune also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 6-day run on both print and online edition, for as low as $27 for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of the packages below.

ADS	(PRINT)	COMBO (PRINT AND ONLINE)
• 3-Liner	$15	$27
• 5-Liner	$24	$39
• 3-Liner with picture	$24	$42
• 5-Liner with picture	$36	$57

ADVERTISING DEADLINE

Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

Saturday Issue:
- All ads placed Friday before 12 noon will come out Saturday issue and anything placed thereafter will be published on Monday issue.

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

CHECK YOUR ADS

Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

ADVERTISING POLICY

All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

WHATZIT?™

Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.

K1ND

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www.facebook.com/dingbatsgames

Find today's solution in classified section

Woods squeaks out win at Congressional

BETHESDA, Md. (AP)—The flight of his shot into the 18th green was so pure that Tiger Woods immediately started walking and twirled his club, knowing that it effectively wrapped up another win at the AT&T National. Making it even more special was the sound of thousands of fans at Congressional to see it.

One day after spectators were kept away from the golf course because of debris from a violent wind storm, they returned Sunday in full force and got what they expected - Woods in his red shirt, outlasting Bo Van Pelt in a back-nine duel, and posing with another trophy.

"Yesterday was a silent day," Woods said. "I think everyone saved up for today. What an atmosphere to play in front of."

Woods closed with a 2-under 69 - at one point going 41 holes without a bogey on a Congressional course that was tougher than when it held the U.S. Open last year - and won for the third time this year. It was the 74th win of his career, moving him past Jack Nicklaus into second place on the PGA Tour, eight short of Sam Snead's record.

Not bad for a guy who only five months ago walked off the course at Doral with another injury to his left Achilles tendon.

"I remember there was a time when people were saying I could never win again," Woods said.

He stayed at No. 4 in the world, but a couple of other rankings indicate how he is trending. Woods moved to the top of the PGA Tour money list and the FedEx Cup standings for the first time since September 2009.

And this win puts him in a position to reclaim No. 1 over the final two majors of the year. The ranking is based on points over two years. If it were a vote, Van Pelt knows how he would cast his ballot.

"I think he's the only guy to win three tournaments on tour this year, is that correct?" he said. "On three different golf courses. And he was leading the U.S. Open after two days. So I'd say that he's playing the best golf in the world right now."

Van Pelt made him work for it.

Three times, Woods took the outright lead in the final round. Each time, Van Pelt made a birdie of his own to catch him. The tournament was decided on the last three holes, and it featured a surprising turn of events.

Van Pelt had Woods on the ropes on the par-5 16th by ripping a 345-yard tee shot and having only a 6-iron into the green. Woods hit a spectator in the left rough with his tee shot, laid up, and then attacked a back flag only to see the ball tumble over the green and down an 8-foot slope. It looked as if it might be a two-shot swing for Van Pelt, or at least the lead going to the 17th.

Tiger Woods watches his drive from the third tee during the final round of the AT&T National golf tournament at Congressional Country Club in Bethesda, Md., Sunday, July 1, 2012.

That's when Van Pelt answered with unforced errors of his own. His 6-iron was slightly heavy and didn't quite reach the bunker, meaning he had to plant his feet in the sand and grip the wedge on the shaft for his third shot. He moved it only a few yards, still in the collar of the rough, and chipped about 12 feet by the hole. Woods' chip up the slope rolled 15 feet by, and he missed the par putt.

Van Pelt also missed his par putt, and they walked away from that mess still tied for the lead.

"It was difficult from the standpoint I had my legs in the bunker, and if I hit that chip a little too hard it goes over the green because you can't put any spin on it," Van Pelt said. "I was just trying to get the ball up in the air and play it out to the right a little bit and just got underneath it a little bit. And the second one, I thought I hit great. I was surprised it rolled that far. And the putt, I mean, I've probably never hit a better putt than that in my life under those kind of circumstances.

"I pretty much hit every shot the way I wanted to that hole, just ended up being 6."

On the 17th, Van Pelt caught a flier from the first cut of rough and the ball shot over the green and near the grandstand, leaving him an impossible chip. He hit through the green and had to scramble to make bogey, and Woods took the outright lead for the third time all day - this time for good.

He made a 6-foot par putt, taking a one-shot lead to the 18th, and played it to perfection.

Brendon de Jonge of Zimbabwe, who had a one-shot lead going into the final round, didn't make birdie and closed with a 77.

Adam Scott went out in 31 and was briefly tied for the lead until a few bogeys on the back nine. He had to settle for a 67, which put him alone in third at 5 under.

Billy Hurley, the Annapolis graduate who spent five years in the Navy, closed with a 72 and tied for fourth along with Robert Garrigus (70), Jhonattan Vegas (71) and Seung-yul Noh of South Korea, who had a 73.

Woods has three wins, all of them in a different manner.

He pulled away early at Bay Hill and played efficiently for a five-shot win; he rallied from four shots behind with an incredible chip-in late in the round and won the Memorial. This was a two-man duel he hasn't experienced in America since he was on the losing end to Y.E. Yang in the 2009 PGA Championship.

One day after spectators were kept out of Congressional because of toppled trees and hundreds of limbs scattered about the course, they were as loud as ever. The marshals were back to work, collecting a half-dozen cell phones from fans who were caught taking pictures.

Woods complained of a camera on his tee shot on the 16th, and having to back off his tee shot on the 17th because of another camera. That didn't happen on Saturday. But he loved what he called the pent-up energy of the crowd, and couldn't imagine what it would have been like if there had been no spectators when the trophy was handed out.

"As long as I won, I would be OK," he said.

Scott, who overslept Thursday morning and made it to the tee with only minutes to spare, ran off four straight birdies late on the front nine to reach 6 under. But after making three tough par saves on the back nine, he ran out of luck. Back-to-back bogeys took him out of the game.

"The story of my year. I need to try and play well for four days," said Scott, who opened with a 75. "You can `if' and `but' and you can argue, but my 3 over through three was due to my very brief warm-up on Thursday, and that might end up being the difference between winning and not this week. I only have myself to blame."

In the final hour, it was clear this would come down to Woods and Van Pelt - one player with more than 70 career wins and another guy whose only official PGA Tour win came in Milwaukee, a tournament that no longer exists.

On the golf course, they looked far more equal than their records indicate.

Woods delivered a made-for-TV shot on the 12th hole when his tee shot left and close to a tree. He couldn't follow through without hitting the tree, and he warned the gallery that the 9-iron might snap in half. Instead, the shaft glanced off the tree and bowed at impact, while the shot sailed toward the flag and settled 30 feet away.

Van Pelt was simply efficient. He twice missed birdie putts inside 15 feet, but he kept giving himself chances.

In the end, all he made were mistakes, which rarely works against Woods.

"He's an amazing player," Van Pelt said. "We've known each other a long time, probably 20 years. He's fun to play with. That's why you travel 30 weeks a year, why you get up in the morning and you the sacrifices that you do, to have the opportunity to play the best player in the world in the final round with a chance to win."

Lakers, Magic discuss trade deal for Howard

ORLANDO, Florida (AP)—The Los Angeles Lakers and Orlando Magic have had preliminary contact about a possible deal for All-Star center Dwight Howard.

Dwight Howard is pushing for a trade to Brooklyn, but can the Nets make a deal? Orlando officials are willing to discuss trades for Howard, and the Lakers have been one of the teams in touch with them over the weekend, sources said. The Brooklyn Nets and Houston Rockets have also talked to Magic officials, sources said.

While the Lakers have yet to make a direct offer, there's no scenario where Orlando would move Howard to the Lakers without getting back Andrew Bynum, L.A.'s 24-year-old All-Star center. Pau Gasol wouldn't fit the Magic's desires to rebuild with young players and draft picks.

The Lakers had been willing to part with Bynum for Howard in March, but those talks ended when Howard decided to decline his early termination option and remain under contract through the 2012-13 season.

The Magic reached out to teams Saturday and told them that they'll discuss proposals about moving Howard, sources said.

Howard and his agent, Dan Fegan, have repeatedly told the Magic in recent weeks that Howard wants to be moved, and that his preferred destination of the Brooklyn Nets hasn't changed, sources said.

Nevertheless, time is running out for Howard to be traded to Brooklyn because Nets general manager Billy King has begun to aggressively explore deals for players like Joe Johnson, Luis Scola and O.J. Mayo in an attempt to surround free-agent point guard Deron Williams with more talent. Williams is choosing between the Nets and Dallas Mavericks and could make a decision in the next several days. Sources say Williams' patience with waiting for Howard to eventually come to Brooklyn is wearing out, and that he's likely to make his decision whether to accept the Nets' five-year, $100 million contract offer devoid of Howard as a factor.

The Nets have already reached agreement with Gerald Wallace on a four-year, $40 million deal and are working to re-sign Brook Lopez, another of their free agents. Their salary cap will be too congested to sign Howard as a free agent next summer. For now, Brooklyn could include Lopez in a sign-and-trade with young players and future draft picks for Howard, but the Nets probably can't construct the most attractive package for Orlando.

The Houston Rockets remain determined to try to land Howard, and have several young players to offer as part of a package.

Rangers, Yanks, and Giants get 3 All-Star starters

NEW YORK (AP) — Josh Hamilton is set to lead a Texas parade to the All-Star game. Now, fans will decide if Chipper Jones gets one final appearance or whether it's time for teen sensation Bryce Harper.

Hamilton drew a record total of more than 11 million votes, and the slugger was among seven Rangers chosen Sunday as All-Stars. A trio of San Francisco Giants rallied in the last week to claim spots while three Yankees also made the starting lineup.

"I don't think the Texas Rangers have to apologize because we've got good players," AL manager Ron Washington of Texas said. "I certainly didn't pick my guys being selfish, I picked them very deserving of being All-Stars, bottom line."

Washington fastballer Stephen Strasburg and Mets knuckleballer R.A. Dickey were two of the 66 players chosen by fans, managers and big leaguers for the showcase July 10 in Kansas City. So was 20-year-old Angels rookie outfielder Mike Trout, who leads the AL in hitting at .339 and drew more than 800,000 write-in votes.

Few of the races for starting spots were close and there seemed to be little complaining about the fans' choices. OK, sure, David Wright could've gotten the nod over Pablo Sandoval.

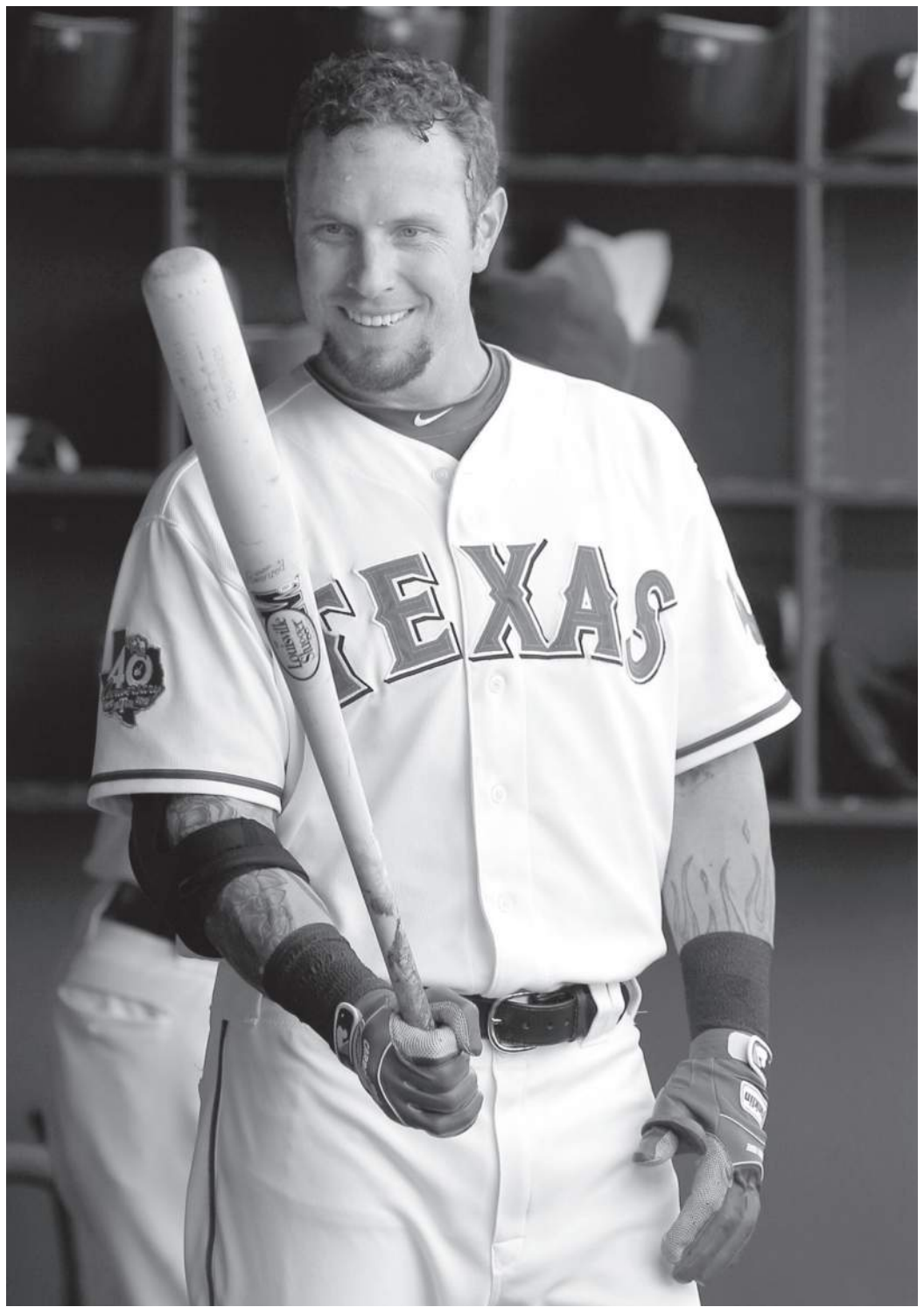
But there certainly will be campaigning this week when it comes to Jones and Harper after they were left off - for now, anyway.

The NL and AL each have one spot left, with fans voting online through Thursday to select one of five candidates in both leagues. Jones and Harper are two of the NL possibilities.

At 40, Jones is a seven-time All-Star and plans to retire after this season. Banged up, the Atlanta third baseman has managed to hit near .300.

"This being my last year, it would be fun to go. I'd love to take my kids," Jones said.

At 19, Harper started the season in Triple-A. The Washington outfielder has dazzled since his promotion with his bat, arm and flat-out hustle.



AP

Texas Rangers' Josh Hamilton stands in the dugout during the first inning of a baseball game against the Oakland Athletics, Saturday, June 30, 2012, in Arlington, Texas.

"I'm an old-timer, so I'd probably lean toward Chipper," NL manager Tony La Russa said on the TBS selection show.

The league that wins the All-Star game gains home-field advantage in the World Series. The NL won last year, then St. Louis became the ninth straight home team to win Game 7 in the Series.

Sandoval was picked for the NL at third base despite missing a month with a broken hand and not matching the stats of Wright.

"I'm surprised I made it," said Sandoval, popular for his "Kung Fu Panda" persona. "He's been having a great year but the fans gave me the votes. I can't thank them enough."

Wright was diplomatic about the result.

"That's the way the system is. I understand how the system works and I respect that system. Pablo's having a very good year. I'd be lying if I said I wasn't disappointed that I don't get a chance to start, but I'm going to do everything I can to help win that game," he said.

Giants catcher Buster Posey, back from a devastating injury last season, was the NL's top vote-getter and beat out Philadelphia's Carlos Ruiz, the league's leading hitter. Wright and Ruiz made the NL team as reserves.

Posey, Sandoval and San Francisco outfielder Melky Cabrera overcame late deficits to win starting spots. Giants ace Matt Cain, who pitched a perfect game in June, made the NL pitching staff.

Texas will have a team-record three starters. Hamilton, who hit four homers in a game earlier this season and leads the majors in RBIs, will be in the outfield with Adrian Beltre at third base and Mike Napoli at catcher. A postseason star last year, Napoli has started only about half the time at that spot this year, but still easily outdistanced Minnesota's Joe Mauer.

"No, it's not awkward, the fans voted for him," Washington said. "He's an All-Star, he's going to go to the All-Star game. Who's to say that Napoli may not be the MVP?"

Second baseman Ian Kinsler, shortstop Elvis Andrus, starter Matt Harrison and reliever Joe Nathan also made the AL roster from Texas. The two-time AL champions began the day with a major league-best 50 wins.

Derek Jeter became a 13-time All-Star shortstop and will start for the AL with Yankees teammates Robinson Cano at second base and Curtis Granderson in the outfield. Injured New York pitcher CC Sabathia was picked, too, and will attend the festivities but not play.

Prince Fielder of Detroit will start at first base. He was the MVP of last year's All-Star game while playing in the NL for Milwaukee.

"Thrilling, everytime," Fielder said.

Dodgers outfielder Matt Kemp edged Milwaukee's Ryan Braun by 100,000 votes for the third spot in the NL outfield - Kemp, beaten out by Braun for the NL MVP award last year, is on the disabled list with a strained left hamstring and looks doubtful to play.

Braun leads the NL in home runs. He was the league's top vote-getter last year, but may have been hurt by drug allegations.

Braun or perhaps Pittsburgh center fielder Andrew McCutchen could wind up starting in Kemp's place.

Dickey, at 37, made his first All-Star team. He leads the majors with 12 wins and could become just the second knuckleballer to start an All-Star game. Dutch Leonard did it in 1943, STATS LLC said.

Strasburg is 9-3 with a 2.81 ERA and tops the majors in strikeouts for the NL East-leading Nationals. Last season at this time, he was working his way back to the big leagues while recovering from Tommy John surgery.

The fans, players and managers combined to pick 14 first-time All-Stars in the NL, including somersaulting Cincinnati reliever Aroldis Chapman and San Diego closer Huston Street.

"No way. Really?" Street said.

There were nine first-timers in the AL, including designated hitter Billy Butler from the host Royals. Every team gets at least one All-Star.

The AL starters: Fielder, Cano, Jeter, Beltre, Hamilton, Granderson, Napoli, Toronto outfielder Jose Bautista and Boston DH David Ortiz.

The NL starters: Cincinnati first baseman Joey Votto, Atlanta second baseman Dan Uggla, shortstop Rafael Furcal and outfielder Carlos Beltran of St. Louis, Kemp, Sandoval, Posey and Cabrera.

The five candidates for the final AL roster spot are all right-handed pitchers: Texas rookie Yu Darvish and fellow starters Jake Peavy of the White Sox and Jason Hammel of Baltimore and relievers Jonathan Broxton of the Royals and Ernesto Frieri of the Angels.

The NL candidates: Jones, Harper, Arizona second baseman Aaron Hill, Atlanta outfielder Michael Bourn and St. Louis third baseman David Freese, MVP of last year's World Series.

Washington said he felt White Sox catcher A.J. Pierzynski deserved to be on the roster.

Giants rally in ninth for 4-3 win over Reds

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—Angel Pagan hit a game-ending double that right fielder Jay Bruce misplayed in the wind with two outs in the bottom of the ninth inning, giving the San Francisco Giants a four-game series split with a 4-3 victory over the Cincinnati Reds on Sunday.

Buster Posey poked a pitch from Jose Arredondo (4-2) down the right-field line that bounced into the stands for a two-out double. Then Pablo Sandoval was walked intentionally to set the stage for a wild finish.

Brewers 2, Diamondbacks 1

In Milwaukee, pinch runner Carlos Gomez raced home following two throwing errors after he stole second base in the bottom of the ninth inning to lift Milwaukee over Arizona.

Nationals 8, Braves 4

In Atlanta, Ryan Zimmerman homered and drove in four runs and Gio Gonzalez scuffled for his sixth straight road victory to help Washington beat Atlanta.

Cardinals 5, Pirates 4

In St. Louis, Allen Craig homered for the second time in three days and All-Star Yadier Molina also connected for the Cardinals.

Cubs 3, Astros 0

In Chicago, Travis Wood pitched shutout ball into the eighth inning and used some nifty baserunning to set up Anthony Rizzo's go-ahead single as Chicago completed a three-game sweep of Houston.

Marlins 5, Phillies 2

In Miami, Ricky Nolasco pitched seven strong innings and Hanley Ramirez hit a two-run home run as Miami completed a three-game sweep of struggling Philadelphia.

Padres 2, Rockies 0

In Denver, Kip Wells tossed seven strong innings for his first win in nearly three years, and Chris Denorfia and Alexi Amarista had two hits apiece as San Diego beat Colorado.

Dodgers 8, Mets 3

In Los Angeles, James Loney had two RBIs, as the Los Angeles Dodgers turned three errors by New York into six unearned runs to help Clayton Kershaw win.

Angels 10, Jays 6

In Toronto Rookie Mike Trout hit a tiebreaking home run in the eighth inning, and Mark Trumbo and Alberto Callaspo added two-run shots as the Los Angeles Angels beat the Toronto Blue Jays 10-6.

Yankees 4, White Sox 2

In New York, Robinson Cano hit a tiebreaking two-run homer after wasting a chance with the bases loaded his first time up against Gavin Floyd and New York beat the White Sox for a series split between division leaders.

Indians 6, Orioles 2

In Baltimore, Justin Masterson pitched seven innings of five-hit ball, and Shelley Duncan homered and hit two doubles for Cleveland.

Tigers 6, Rays 2

In St. Petersburg, Florida, Rick Porcello allowed four hits in seven shutout innings and Austin Jackson hit a three-run homer as Detroit downed Tampa Bay.

Red Sox 2, Mariners 1, 10 innings

In Seattle, David Ortiz hit a sacrifice fly in the 10th inning to help Boston beat Seattle and split a four-game series.

Twins 10, Royals 8

In Minneapolis, Trevor Plouffe homered twice, and Josh Willingham and Drew Butera had one each for Minnesota.

Athletics 3, Rangers 1

In Arlington, Texas, Yu Darvish threw a wild pitch that allowed the tiebreaking run and lost at home for the first time with Texas, losing to Oakland despite the Japanese ace's 11 strikeouts in seven innings.

Shutout wins for Wild Bill's; Shirley's survives

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Wild Bill's men's and women's squads cruised to easy wins, while three other teams also triumphed in the 2012 SSS Summer Futsal League's games over the weekend at the TSL Sports Complex in Gualo Rai.

In the women's division match last Friday, Wild Bill's blanked Mellow Yellow, 4-0. Bunrung Bransuell made twin goals for Wild Bill's, while Pratoom Stoffer and Chuanthip Munthonlang added one each.

Wild Bill's also played last Saturday and forced a 2-2 draw against Xerox. Stoffer tallied the two goals for Wild Bill's, while Nola Hix and Manami Tadokoro nailed one apiece for Xerox.

Wild Bill's now has a 2-2-0 win-draw-loss record in the six-team women's league, while Xerox holds a 2-1-1 card. Mellow Yellow owns a dismal 0-0-4 slate.

Xerox 9, IT&E Awesome 3

Xerox got its second win last Friday after dominating IT&E Awesome.

Tadokoro was on fire for Xerox, tallying five goals, while Marley Cook chipped in two, and Juliana Muna and Patricia Coleman contributed one each.

Jhumilyn Esposo, Amy Taylor, and Jaime Mendoza scored for IT&E Awesome, which fell to a 1-0-2 slate.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Shirley's Irish Pagarao, right, dribbles against a Baked Girls defender during the second half of their game in the women's division of the summer futsal league last Saturday at the TSL Sports Complex.

Shirley's 4, Baked Girls 3

In the other women's game last Saturday, Irish Pagarao single handedly lifted Shirley's to a close win over the Baked Girls.

Pagarao scored all four goals of Shirley's, nailing two each in the first and second half. Terra Allen had two for Baked Girls in the second half, while Ferleen Esmundo scored the other one, also in the final frame.

The loss was only the first in four games for Baked Girls (2-1-1).

MEN'S
Wild Bill's 15, Go Green 0

In the lone men's game played over the weekend, Wild Bill's demolished Go Green.

Jack Thoensaket and Tanapon Unsa teamed up in the big win, scoring five and four goals, respectively. Thanyakorn Konkoed added three, Adul Detolon had two, and Kai Khamka logged one for Wild Bill's, which has an undefeated 3-0-0 record in the five-team men's field.

BOYS U18
IT&E 22, Mean Machine 2

IT&E posted the most lopsided win over the weekend, as it crushed Mean Machine.

John Taisacan sizzled for eight goals, Sung Bae Park recorded four, and Kaisei Toda and Jeong Hwan Kim had three each. Scott Kim and Frank Jeon tallied two apiece and John Masga hit one for IT&E, which is in a tie for first place with Astig with its 2-0-0 card.

SPAIN

From Page 28

Four years ago at Euro 2008, Spain ended a 44-year drought of major titles, beating Germany 1-0 in the final to start a run that has been unmatched by any other team in history.

Although they lost to the United States in the semifinals of the Confederations Cup in 2009, snapping a record 15-game winning streak, the Spanish have been nearly impossible to beat in competitive matches.

A year after that game against the Americans, Spain opened the 2010 World Cup with a loss to Switzerland. But they then went on a tear, winning their next six games to finally claim a World Cup title and undoubtedly shed for good the "underachiever" tag.

In all that time since Euro 2008, Spain has won with flair, using its short passing game—dubbed "tiki taka" by the Spanish media and adopted by the team—to dazzle scrambling opponents.

"Tonight, there was no contest," Italy goalkeeper Gianluigi Buffon said. "They were too superior, so the bitterness at losing this final is only relative."

Against Italy, Spain was the favorite, but was also primed to be beaten after being held to a 1-1 draw by the Italians in their opening Group C match. Spain, which has been experimenting with a lineup that excludes a recognized striker, needed a penalty shootout to reach the final after a 0-0 tie with Portugal in the semifinals.

"They've been playing at a very high level for years," Italy coach Cesare Prandelli said. "And even though they didn't use any traditional striker, they were able to give weight to their attack."

The controversial lineup, which Spain coach Vicente del Bosque again employed on Sunday, is akin to playing in the Super Bowl without a running back. Sure, you can still score touchdowns, but you give up on the chance for a game-breaking play.

Still, the midfielders and the defenders got the job done in the first half. Silva headed in a high shot in the 14th minute off a pass from Cesc Fabregas. And Alba added another in the 41st, picking up a beautiful through ball from Xavi and shooting past Buffon.

"The game was ours after the first goal, but the truth is that we played one heck of a game," Fabregas said.

Italy's task was tough enough with 11 players, and it became impossible with only 10 after the 64th minute. All its substitutes were used when midfielder Thiago Motta, who had only been on the field for seven minutes, was taken off with an injury.

Torres, who came on for Fabregas in the 75th minute, then added the third goal with a relatively easy finish and Mata really put the game away in the 88th, knocking in a pass from Torres.

"The second goal by Jordi hurt them, and then the third finished them off," said Casillas, who made a point-blank save on a shot from Antonio Di Natale at the start of the second half and twice tipped crosses out of danger just before the Italians could get their heads to the ball.

With every save, and of course with every goal, the huge group of Spain supporters cheered and screamed. The red-shirted fans dominated one corner of the stadium, filling up more than six sections of the Olympic Stadium. On the opposite side, the blue-clad Italians were far outnumbered, with dozens of empty yellow seats poking through the mass of supporters.

Also in the stands were several heads of state. Italian Premier Mario Monti, along with other EU leaders, had said they would not travel to Ukraine for the tournament because of the politically tainted jailing of former Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko. But that didn't stop him from attending the final in Kiev.

Spanish Prime Minister Mariano Rajoy also attended the match, and got to watch as his players celebrated with confetti and fireworks when they lifted yet another major trophy.

"I don't believe it," said Alba, who has played only nine matches for Spain, "but little by little it is sinking in."

HI-FIVE

From Page 28

Macahito nailed rally-halting baskets to save Hi-Five's win, while AON muffed a bundle of free throws in the fourth quarter to fall short on its comeback bid.

With the victory, Hi-Five moved two games away from clinching a finals berth in the double-elimination playoffs. Hi-Five plays the second-seeded MDX/Mariana Resort in the second round of the playoffs tonight at 8pm. SIP/Barney's, which got a free pass to the second round, winning via forfeit over DeMolay, duels the top-ranked and undefeated DYS/Bayani in the first match at 6:30pm.

The lone game played in the opening round of the U20 playoffs was close in the first half until Hi-Five opened a 45-33 advantage, going into the final four minutes of the third canto. Reynald Cabaltica had six straight points, while Artel Urbano scored Hi-Five's first four points in the third period before leaving the court due to an injury to give their team a double-digit lead.

However, AON launched its own rally, having an 11-2 windup behind the four points apiece of John John Capuyon and Karlo De Leon and Kobee Mendoza's triple to stay in contention, 44-47, with still a full quarter to go.

AON had a chance to grab the driver's seat early in the fourth when it was awarded four free throws, but missed all and that had been the story for coach Edsel Mendoza's wards as they muffed more than 10 charities and made only one in the final canto alone.

Despite its free throw woes, AON managed to claim the temporary lead at the 5:03 mark of the fourth canto after Mendoza hit a short jumper. However, Hi-Five quickly regained the upper hand, as Donald Hockett found himself alone at the paint for an easy two. He nailed another basket at the exact spot a few plays later, while Gary Macahito also drilled back-to-back shots to keep Hi-Five's safe distance and Toby Fleming canned two charities in the closing seconds to seal the win.

Hockett paced Hi-Five with his 13 points, while Urbano still finished in double digits with 10 despite leaving the court early in the third after twisting his left ankle. Capuyon had 26 points for AON, which is still in contention as it guaranteed a win in its next game against DeMolay. DeMolay had already forfeited two games and will no longer be allowed to play this Thursday, thus AON is guarantee the win. AON will then meet the winner of the Bayani-SIP tiff on July 10.

Meanwhile, SMF/DYS downed VisMinda/Hi-Five in the last game in the regular season of the U14 division, 84-36.

Hi-Five/POWER 65 – Hockett 13, Urbano 10, Cabaltica 9, F. Macahito 8, Aldan 7, G. Macahito 6, Fleming 4, Atalig 2.

AON/Boholano 61 – Capuyon 26, De Leon 10, Palacios 8, Mendoza 6, Yap 4, Hemley 3, Sanarez 2, Javier 1.

Scoring by quarters: 14-13, 29-25, 47-44, 65-61.

UPSET

From Page 28

to Batangas in the regular season, 84-97, and was seeded (No. 5) lower in the playoffs than its fourth-ranked foe, won their second outing after dominating the game right from the start.

Big men Bobby Geli and Ramil Santos did most of the damage for VisMinda/Civic Boys, as they combined for about half of the team's total output with the former sizzling for 24 points and the latter adding 19. Sandy Quemado was the third VisMinda/Civic Boys player to score in twin digits with 12.

Batangas had only two players scoring in double figures with Jun Abedes and Amor Casabuena making 19 and 15, respectively, and the team undoubtedly missed the contribution of Joseph Galulu. The lefty guard, who scored 18 points in their first outing against VisMinda/Civic Boys, did not play in the first round of the playoffs.

With Galulu absent, Batangas' usual fast-paced game was missing in the opening canto, while Geli and Santos made their presence felt early, combining for 11 markers to give VisMinda/Civic Boys an 18-12 lead.

VisMinda/Civic Boys continued to outgun Batangas in the second period with Quemado joining Geli and Santos in the scoreboard and stretching the advantage to 13 at the break, 39-26.

Geli was still unstoppable in the second half, adding 10 more points in the third to keep VisMinda/Civic Boys' double-digit lead, which ballooned to as much as 19.

In the fourth quarter, Casabuena and Abedes tried hard to anchor a Batangas' comeback, but simply lacked support from their teammates as they only cut the lead to as low as 12 points.

With the loss, Batangas must win its game against MAFEA/CNMI on July 8 to stay alive, while VisMinda/Civic Boys advanced to the second round and will face the second-ranked Bayani/LBT Appraisal on July 5 at 8pm. Top seed and defending champion MDX/Armatech will also play on July 5, challenging the third-ranked Laguna/Twinkle/Erika's at 6:30pm. Laguna won via forfeit against MAFEA/CMI, which had only four players available for last Sunday's opening game.

First Game

VisMinda/Civic Boys 87 – Geli 27, Santos 19, Quemado 12, Sevilla 9, Belo 9, Miguel 7, Olfindo 4, De Belen 2.

Batangas/Fong's Bakery 68 – Abedes 19, Casabuena 15, Alejandro 8, Jacob 7, Puno 6, Bernardo 4, Gatdula 4, Buniag 3, Teng 2.

Scoring by quarters: 18-12, 39-26, 64-49, 87-68.

CNMI

From Page 28

the championship and consolation matches will be played this Friday. Games in the Junior League of the ASPAC are being played in Nha Trang City in the Khanh Hoa Province.

Meanwhile, the CNMI Major All-Stars played their first game against Guam yesterday, however details of that match were unavailable. They are competing in Taichung, Taipei and games will run through Sunday.

Also yesterday, the CNMI Senior and Big League All-Stars left for Guam to compete in the ASPAC tournament that will be held at the Paseo Stadium from July 4 to 9.

RBC Mini Rascal Basketball Tournament

PHOTOS BY WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND

Little Rollers' Dance Bartolome dishes the ball out to Ichiro Borja during their U10 championship match against the Little Rebels in the RBC Mini Rascal Basketball Tournament last Thursday at the Garapan Basketball Court.

The Little Rebels' Taiga Sato (7) sinks a bucket.

The Rascals' Kyle Atalig blocks the Rebels' Ylae Caracut during their U12 championship game.

The Rebels Ylae Caracut converts on a fastbreak play.

The Little Rollers' Corin Gordon tries to get off a shot.

The Rebels' Matt Mamaril thinks about going baseline.

The Rascals' Angelo Factor drives to the hoop.

The Rascals' Khristian Itaas, right, collides with R-Rebels' Angelo Factor.

The Little Rollers' Carl Esdrelon looks for an open teammate.

The Rascals' Khristian Itaas in action during the U12 championship game.

Rangers, Yanks, and Giants get 3 All-Star starters

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Woods squeaks out win at Congressional

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Spain dominates Italy at Euro 2012

By CHRIS LEHOURITES
AP SPORTS WRITER

Just like clockwork, Spain's "tiki taka" passing game tore Italy apart.

The World Cup champions controlled the play Sunday in the European Championship final, as they usually do. They moved the ball up the field with short pass after short pass, as they usually do.

But, incredibly, they also managed to score a whopping four goals, something they don't usually do.

It all added up to a 4-0 win over Italy and a third straight major soccer title for Spain.

"We won being true to our playing style, and by moving the ball the we way we moved it we knew how to take charge of the match," said Spain goalkeeper Iker Casillas, the team's captain. "What we do is difficult but we make it look easy."

Casillas and Spain striker Fernando Torres also made their own histories. Torres became the first man to score in two European Championship finals, and Casillas played in his record 100th victory in international soccer.

Spain's other goals on Sunday at the Olympic Stadium came from David Silva, Jordi Alba and Juan Mata.

"We were superior to Italy," said midfielder Xavi Hernandez, perhaps Spain's most influential player over the last four years. "We played a complete game and perhaps the best of the entire European Championship. We made history."

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AP

Italy's Mario Balotelli, left, and Spain's Jordi Alba challenge for the ball during the Euro 2012 soccer championship final between Spain and Italy in Kiev, Ukraine, Sunday, July 1, 2012.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

A POWER/Hi-Five player, right, is tightly guarded by AON/Boholano's Jun Javier during the second quarter of their playoff game in the U20 division of the UFO Docomo Pacific Cup last Saturday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Hi-Five draws first blood in U20 playoffs

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Hi-Five/Boholano played steady in the homestretch to thwart AON/Boholano, 65-61, at the start of the playoff round in the U20 division of the 2012 UFO Docomo Pacific Cup last Saturday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Donald Hockett and Gary

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ROSELYN B. MONROYO

VisMinda/Civic Boys' Norman Olfindo slips past his Batangas/Fong's Bakery defenders for an easy layup during the fourth quarter of their playoff game in the UFO Budweiser Cup last Sunday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Upset in Budweiser Cup

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

VisMinda/Civic Boys stunned Batangas/Fong's Bakery, 87-68, in the first round of the playoffs of the 2012 UFO Masters Budweiser Cup last Sunday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

VisMinda/Civic Boys, which lost

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CNMI undefeated in ASPAC

By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER

The CNMI Junior All-Stars got off to a strong start in the 2012 Asia Pacific Regional Tournament after sweeping their two games over the weekend in Vietnam.

The Commonwealth youth sluggers debuted in this year's ASPAC with a 9-2 victory over Hong Kong last Saturday and then crushed the host, 21-0, last Sunday. The team is composed of Jonathan Camacho, Jerald Cabrera, K.J. Deleon Guerrero, Terson Eina, Darion Jones, Michael Muna, Nathan Camacho, Jhace Palacios, Virolanson Secharmidal, Roke Tenorio, Kainao Wanket, and Kenji Yamagata. Bernard Cabrera manages the squad.

The CNMI Junior All-Stars' third game was against the Philippines with the match set for 7pm last night (4pm Saipan time) and results were unavailable at press time. The Commonwealth bets' last two games will be against defending champion Chinese-Taipei today and versus Indonesia tomorrow.

The Top 4 teams after the round of pool play will advance to Thursday's semifinals, while

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